IRON MAN®

RAPTURE

INITIATE
INTEGRATE
TFE+ A500 Rev A
retromaster
TIMO BRADSTREET 2010

ALEXANDER IRVINE · LAN MEDINA

Witness the birth of Stark 2.0!

When a violent heart attack pushes the billionaire playboy and visionary inventor to the brink of death, he's not about to go down quietly. Tony locks himself in his lab trying to find a solution and emerges with his greatest achievement: Stark 2.0 — a fusion of man and machine unlike anything the world has seen. But when the Stark 2.0 entity pushes its host past the brink of sanity and attempts to recreate the world in its own image, the future of Iron Man and the fate of humanity are on the line.

With Stark Industries in lockdown, it's up to tony's associates Pepper Potts and Jim Rhodes to stem a technological virus that might contaminate the entire world. But to save the day, they'll need Tony's help — if there's anything left of him.

Collecting *Iron Man Rapture #1-4*, written by Alexander Irvine and illustrated by Lan Medina.

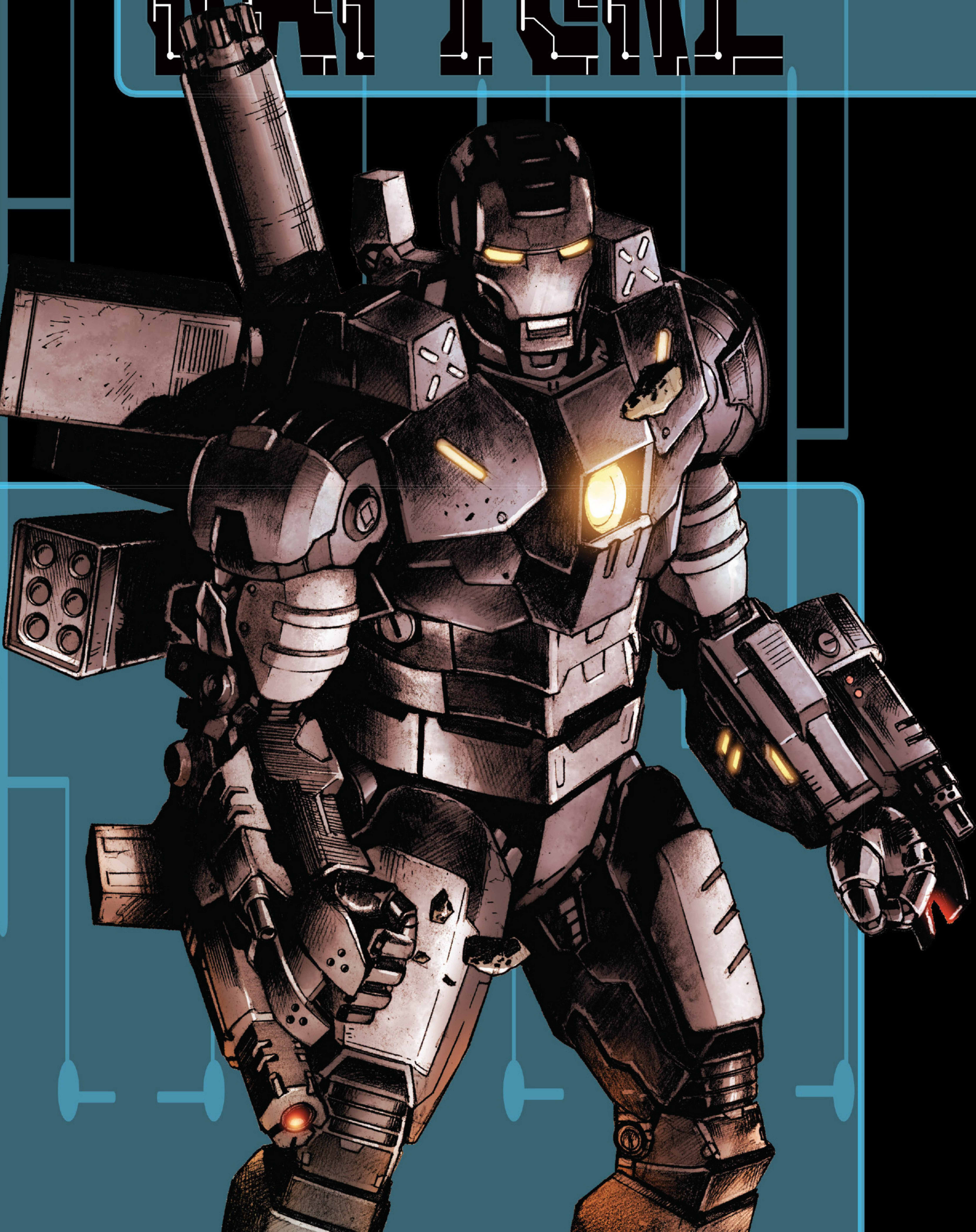
TIM BRADSTREET 2010

MARVEL

PARENTAL ADVISORY

IRON MAN

RAPTURE



IRON MAN
RAPTURE

WRITER: ALEXANDER IRVINE
ARTIST: LAN MEDINA
COLORIST: JUNE CHUNG
LETTERER: VC'S JOE CARAMAGNA
COVER ARTIST: TIM BRADSTREET
ASSISTANT EDITOR: SEBASTIAN GIRNER
EDITOR: AXEL ALONSO

COLLECTION EDITOR & DESIGN: CORY LEVINE
EDITORIAL ASSISTANTS: JAMES EMMETT & JOE HOCHSTEIN
ASSISTANT EDITORS: MATT MASDEU, ALEX STARBUCK & NELSON RIBEIRO
EDITORS, SPECIAL PROJECTS: JENNIFER GRUNWALD & MARK D. BEAZLEY
SENIOR EDITOR, SPECIAL PROJECTS: JEFF YOUNGQUIST
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT OF SALES: DAVID GABRIEL

DIGITAL MANAGER/PRODUCTION: TIM SMITH 3
DIGITAL PRODUCTION: MAGGIE SIEGEL-BERELE

EDITOR IN CHIEF: AXEL ALONSO
CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER: JOE QUESADA
PUBLISHER: DAN BUCKLEY
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER: ALAN FINE

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MARVEL KNIGHTS
LIMITED SERIES
1 of 4
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IRVINE
MEDINA
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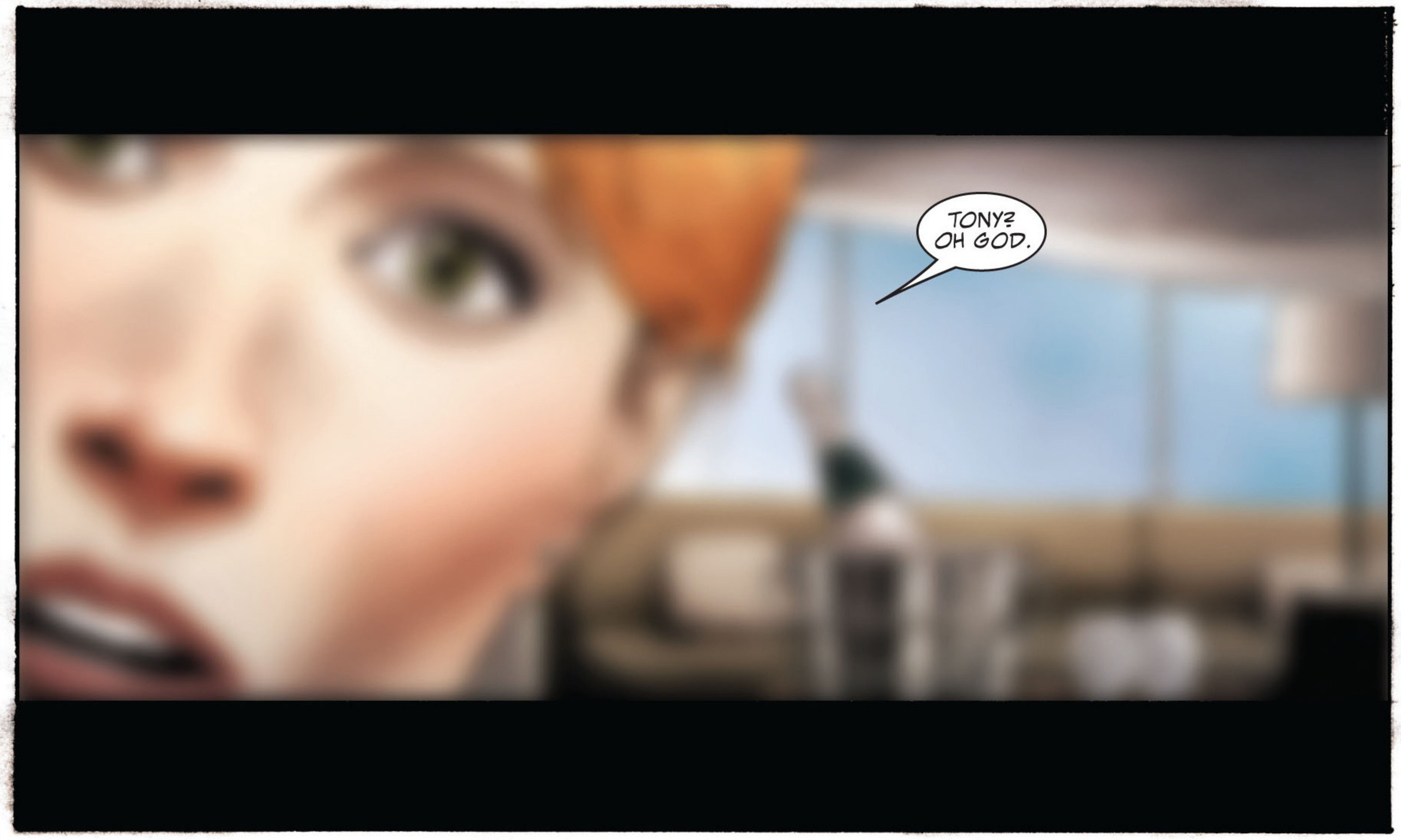
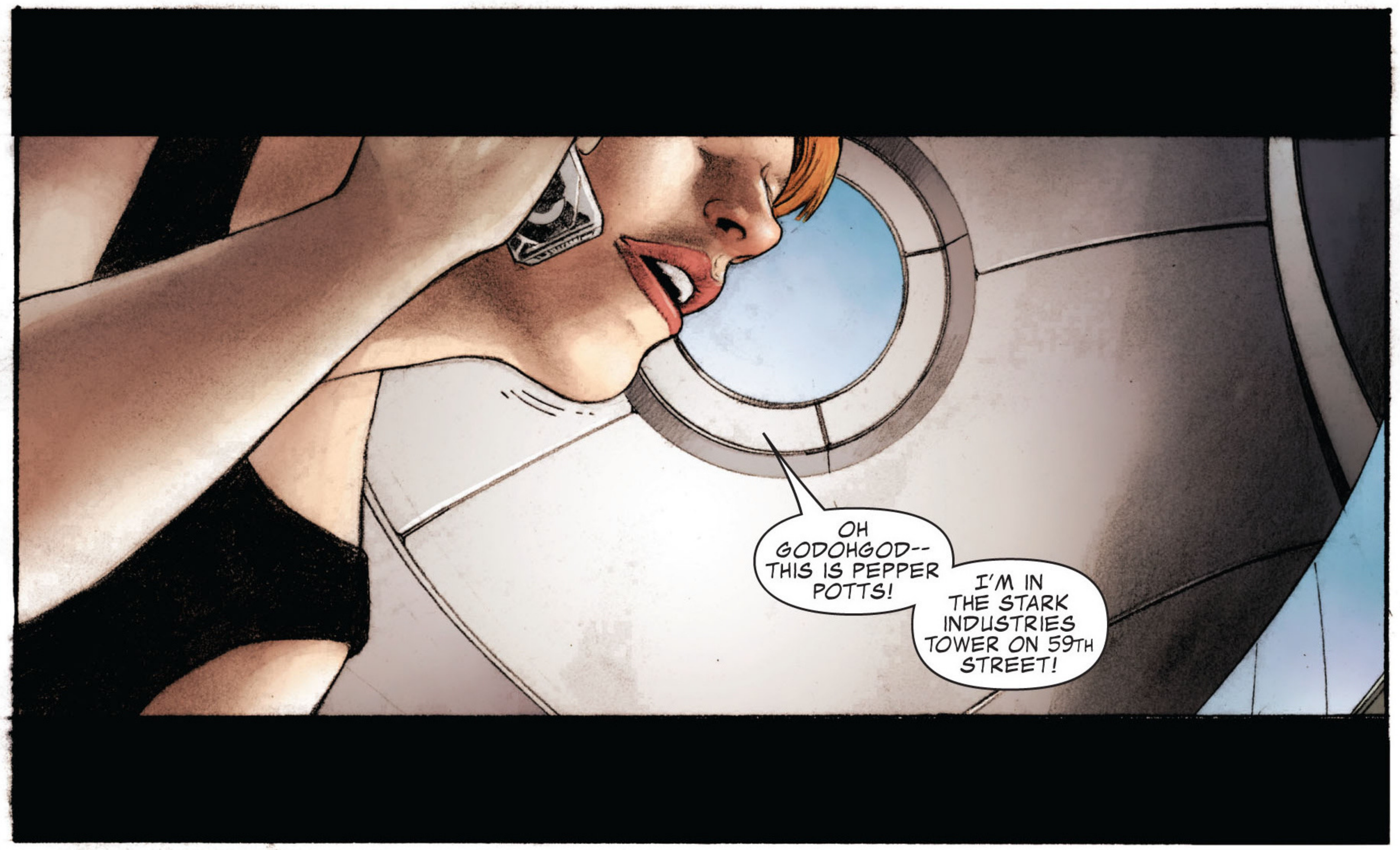
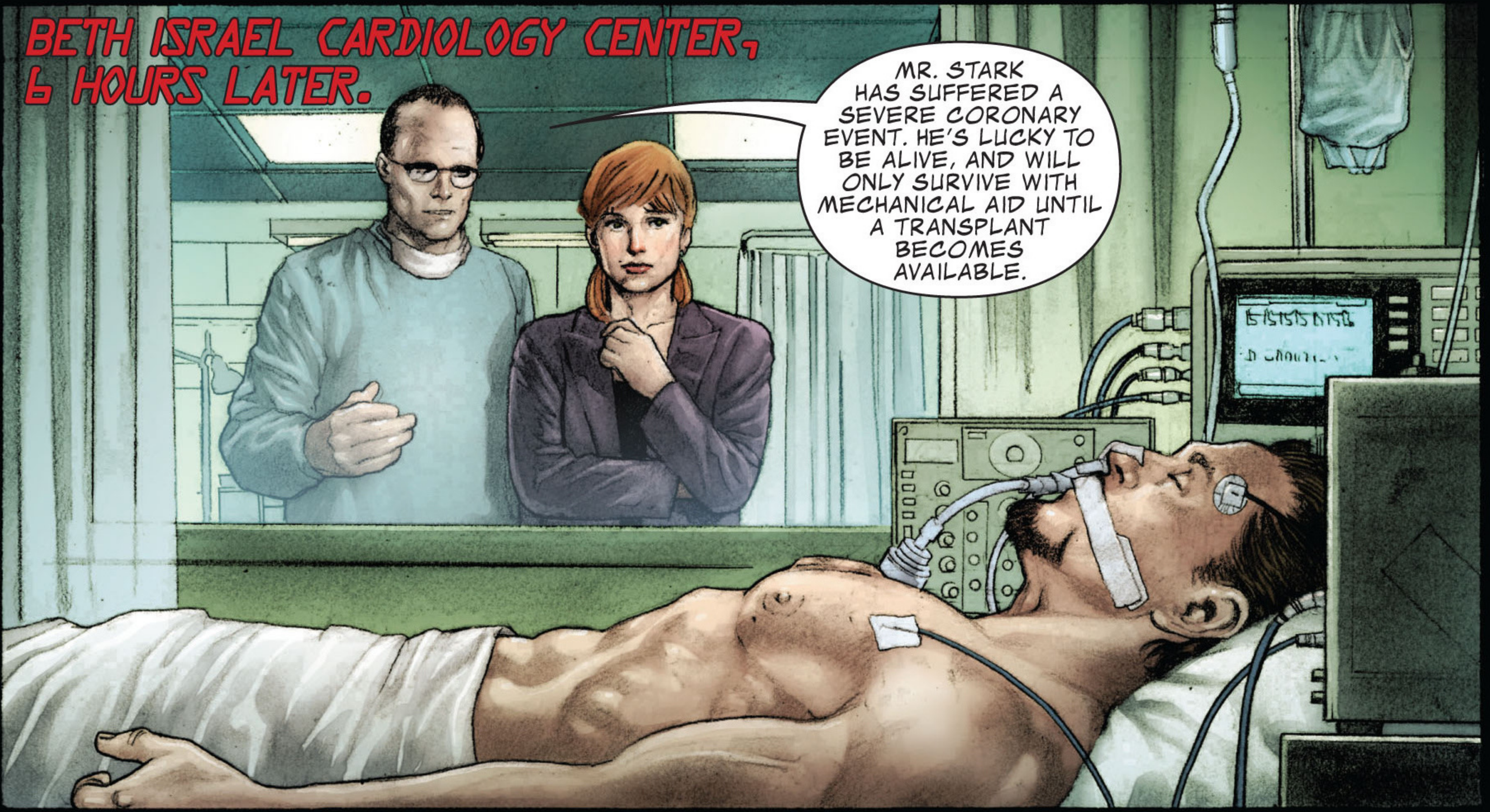
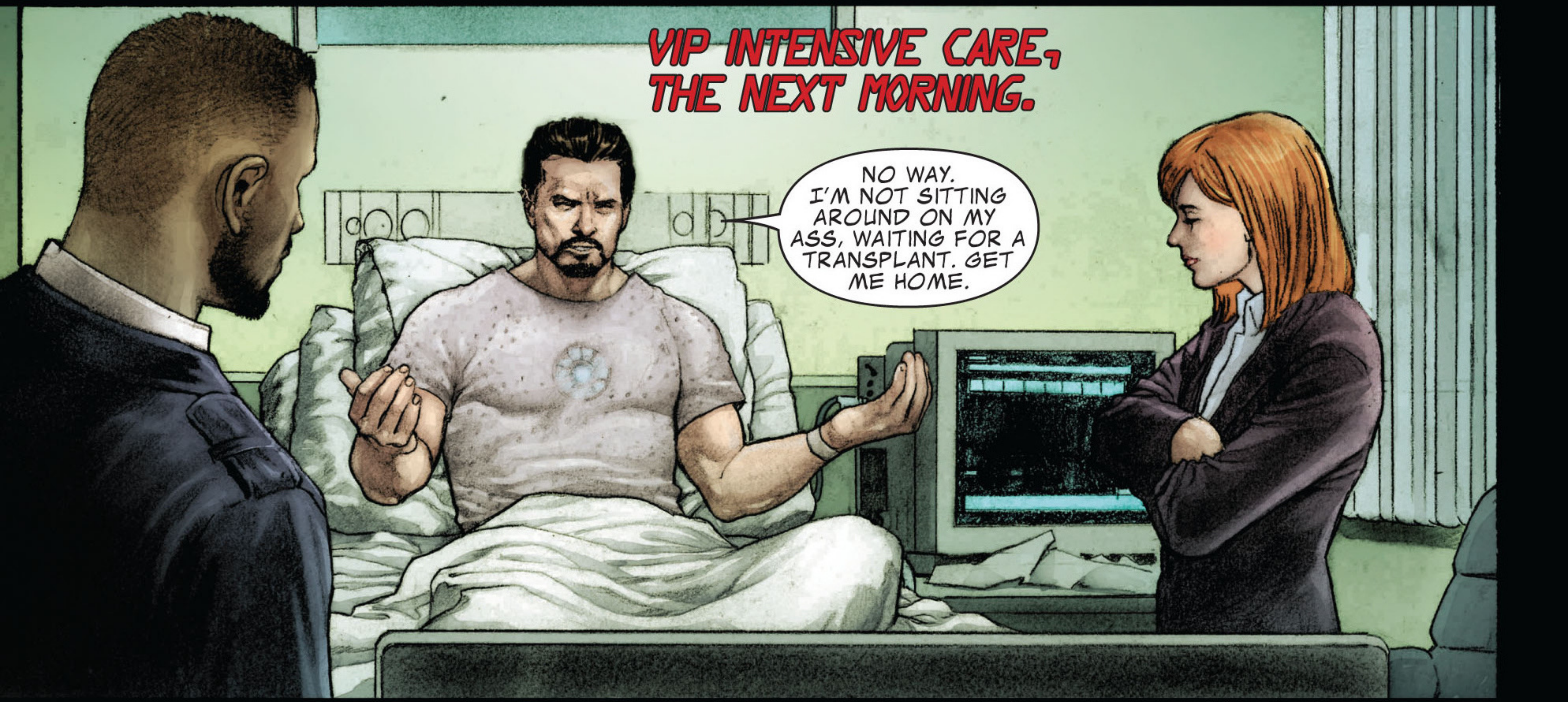
TONY?

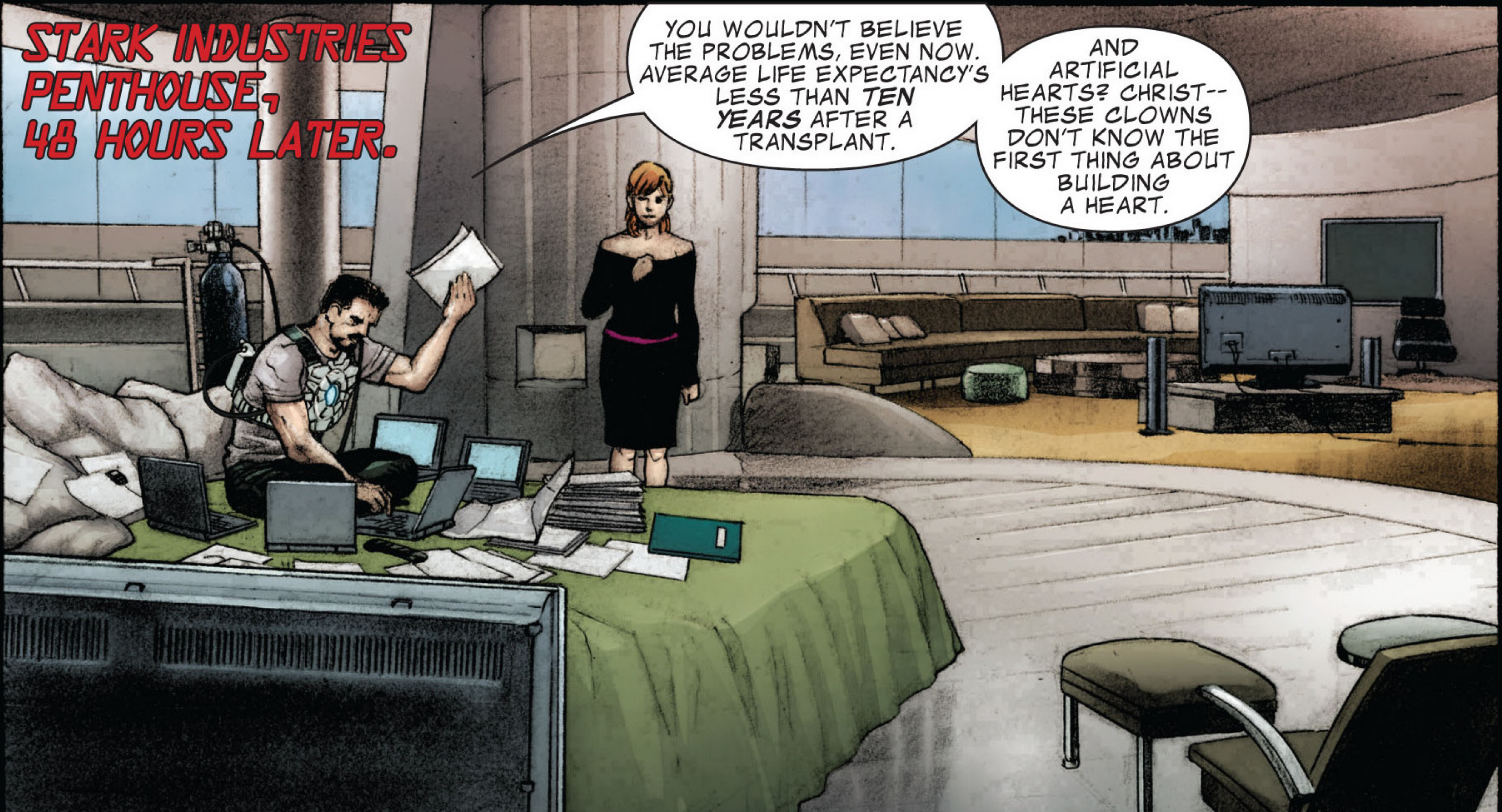

TONY? OH GOD.


OH GODOHGOD-- THIS IS PEPPER POTTS!
I'M IN THE STARK INDUSTRIES TOWER ON 59TH STREET!

WE NEED A HELICOPTER RIGHT NOW!


BETH ISRAEL CARDIOLOGY CENTER, 6 HOURS LATER.
MR. STARK HAS SUFFERED A SEVERE CORONARY EVENT. HE'S LUCKY TO BE ALIVE, AND WILL ONLY SURVIVE WITH MECHANICAL AID UNTIL A TRANSPLANT BECOMES AVAILABLE.


VIP INTENSIVE CARE, THE NEXT MORNING.
NO WAY. I'M NOT SITTING AROUND ON MY ASS, WAITING FOR A TRANSPLANT. GET ME HOME.

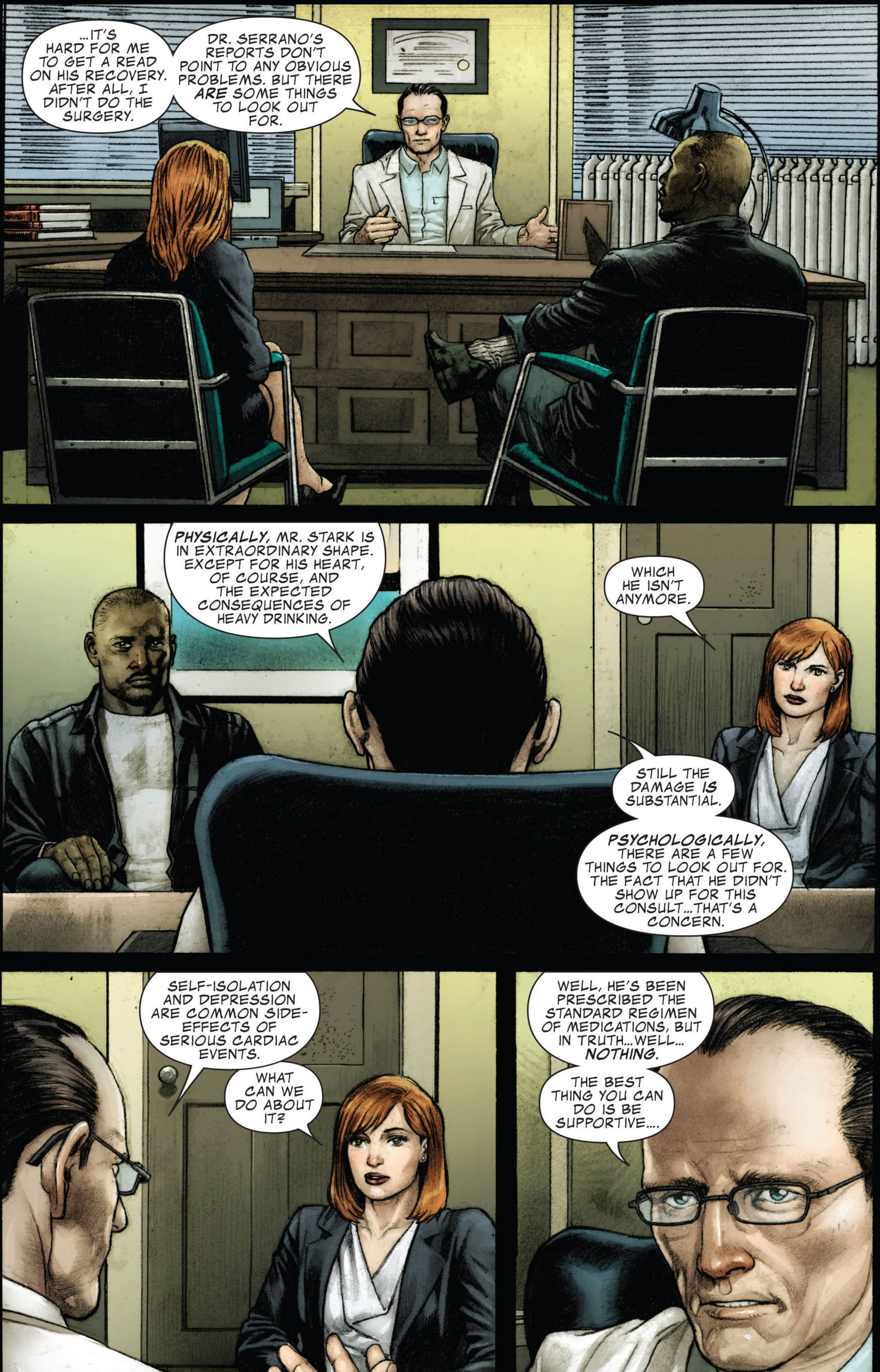

STARK INDUSTRIES PENTHOUSE, 48 HOURS LATER.
YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE THE PROBLEMS, EVEN NOW. AVERAGE LIFE EXPECTANCY'S LESS THAN *TEN YEARS* AFTER A TRANSPLANT.
AND ARTIFICIAL HEARTS? CHRIST-- THESE CLOWNS DON'T KNOW THE FIRST THING ABOUT BUILDING A HEART.

TONY, THIS IS NOT THE TIME TO BE AN INVENTOR. INVENTIONS **FAIL**. YOU NEED TO LISTEN TO THE DOCTORS. THIS IS YOUR **LIFE** WE'RE TALKING ABOUT.
TEN YEARS? HELL WITH THAT.
I'VE GOT A **BUSINESS** TO RUN. I'VE GOT A **LIFE** TO LIVE.
THAT'S ALL?
COME ON, PEP. DO I HAVE TO SAY IT?
OOH, OUCH. WATCH THE HEART GIZMO.
YOU. YOU'RE MY BEST REASON NOT TO DIE.
NEVER FEAR, PEP. TONY'S GOT A PLAN.

STARK INDUSTRIES ARC REACTOR LAB, NEXT DAY
THIS IS INSANE. YOU SHOULD'VE DRAGGED HIS ASS OUT OF THERE TO A HOSPITAL. OR HAD ME DO IT.
I TRIED, RHODEY. YOU KNOW HOW HE IS.
I AGREE WITH COLONEL RHODES. THIS IS CRAZY. NO SURGEON WOULD DO IT.
TONY'S BEEN CALLED CRAZY BEFORE, DR. SERRANO.
HE KNOWS WHAT HE'S DOING.

STARK INDUSTRIES ADVANCED CYBERNETICS LAB, TEN DAYS LATER.
...TONY, YOU HAD A MASSIVE HEART ATTACK. YOU **NEED** TO GO DO THIS FOLLOW-UP.
WITH THE GUY WHO ***DIDN'T*** PUT IN MY ARTIFICIAL HEART? I NEED TO FOLLOW-UP WITH HIM?
SEND DR. SERRANO IF IT GIVES YOU PEACE OF MIND, BUT ME, I'VE ***NEVER FELT BETTER***. I FEEL LIKE A NEW MAN.
HELL...I ALMOST DON'T WANT TO STOP.
TONY... DON'T EVEN ***THINK*** ABOUT IT.
I'M NOT. ONLY THINKING ABOUT GETTING BETTER.
I SWEAR.

STARK INDUSTRIES MOBILE ARMAMENT LAB, THAT AFTERNOON.
...WE'VE ALSO IMPROVED THE STEALTH TECHNOLOGY. THE WAY IT'S WORKING, YOU COULD BE STANDING TWO FEET AWAY FROM SOMEONE AND THEY'D NEVER KNOW YOU WERE THERE.
COOL, STEVE. WHAT ELSE?
SLAM
RHODEY, TONY WANTS ME TO GO TO THE TWO-WEEK FOLLOW-UP. HE WON'T TALK TO THE DOCTOR. WILL YOU COME WITH ME?
SURE. BUT IF HE WON'T LISTEN TO THE DOCTOR, WHY'S HE GOING TO LISTEN TO ME?
I'M JUST HIS GIRLFRIEND, RHODEY. *WHATEVER* THE DOCTOR SAYS, TONY'S GOING TO NEED TO HEAR IT FROM *YOU*.
AND HE SURE AS HELL NEEDS TO HEAR SOMETHING.
WE'LL PICK THIS UP LATER, STEVE.
IF I HAD AN ARMORED SUIT, I SWEAR TO GOD I WOULD KICK HIS ASS.


...IT'S HARD FOR ME TO GET A READ ON HIS RECOVERY. AFTER ALL, I DIDN'T DO THE SURGERY.
DR. SERRANO'S REPORTS DON'T POINT TO ANY OBVIOUS PROBLEMS. BUT THERE *ARE* SOME THINGS TO LOOK OUT FOR.
PHYSICALLY, MR. STARK IS IN EXTRAORDINARY SHAPE. EXCEPT FOR HIS HEART, OF COURSE, AND THE EXPECTED CONSEQUENCES OF HEAVY DRINKING.
WHICH HE ISN'T ANYMORE.
STILL THE DAMAGE *IS* SUBSTANTIAL.
PSYCHOLOGICALLY, THERE ARE A FEW THINGS TO LOOK OUT FOR. THE FACT THAT HE DIDN'T SHOW UP FOR THIS CONSULT...THAT'S A CONCERN.
SELF-ISOLATION AND DEPRESSION ARE COMMON SIDE-EFFECTS OF SERIOUS CARDIAC EVENTS.
WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT IT?
WELL, HE'S BEEN PRESCRIBED THE STANDARD REGIMEN OF MEDICATIONS, BUT IN TRUTH...WELL... *NOTHING.*
THE BEST THING YOU CAN DO IS BE SUPPORTIVE....

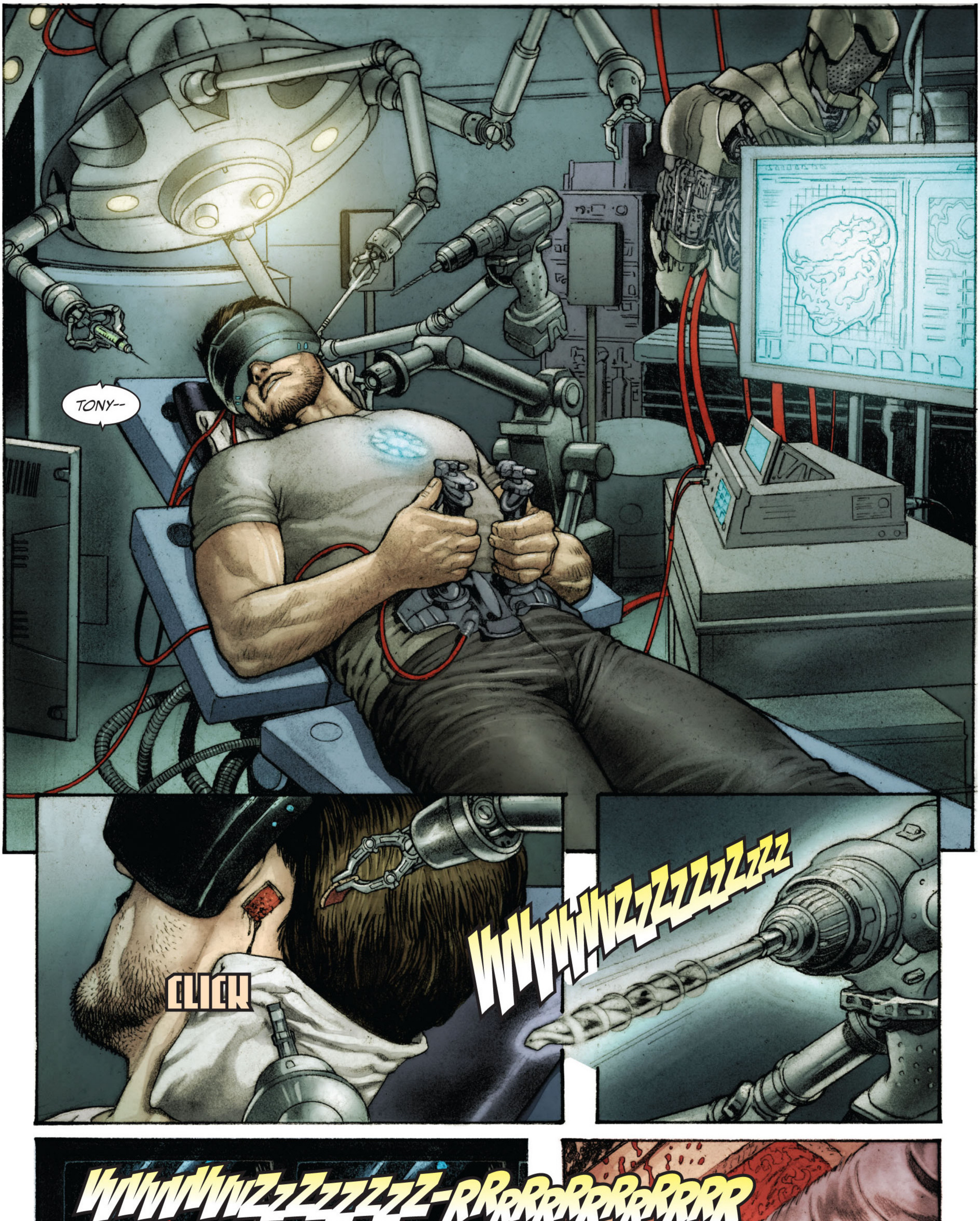
"...AND KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR ANY *UNUSUAL* BEHAVIORS."
HEY, TONY.
BUSY, PAL.
TOO BUSY.
YOU TAKING YOUR MEDS LIKE YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO?
NOPE. I DON'T USE THEIR HEART AND I DON'T TAKE THEIR MEDS.
DID YOU WASH YOUR HANDS BEFORE YOU CAME IN?
DID I *WHAT?*
THIS IS A ***CLEAN ROOM,*** RHODEY. THERE ARE RULES.
BUILDING A BETTER MOUSE-TRAP?
BUILDING A BETTER *MOUSE.*

YEAH, I'M NO Ph.D., BUT THAT LOOKS LIKE A CYBERNETIC INTERFACE FOR SOMETHING LIKE...
...OH, I DON'T KNOW, A *SHINY METAL HAND?*
RHODEY. DON'T MAKE ME LOCK THE DOORS FROM NOW ON.
YOU WANT TO B.S. ME, FINE. BUT AT LEAST TALK TO PEPPER. YOU OWE HER THAT.

ADVANCED CYBERNETICS LAB, THE NEXT MORNING.
SEE? NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF. NOBODY'S EVER DONE ANYTHING LIKE IT, BUT THIS IS THE NEXT THING.
HUMAN 2.0. THE OLD VERSION DOESN'T CUT IT ANYMORE.
EXCITING STUFF, RIGHT?
TONY, I'M WORRIED THAT YOU'RE GOING CRAZY. I DON'T KNOW HOW TO SAY IT ANY MORE CLEARLY THAN THAT.
I THINK YOU'RE DEPRESSED, AND I THINK YOU'RE GOING TO GET HURT IF YOU KEEP THIS UP.
GOD. I QUIT DRINKING, START TO REALLY TAKE CARE OF MY BODY... AND NOW YOU WANT TO TELL ME I'M DEPRESSED?
TAKE **CARE** OF YOURSELF?
WHAT **SELF** ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? YOU'RE BUILDING A NEW **ARM**, TONY. WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH THE ONE YOU HAVE?
THAT'S A MILLION DOLLARS' WORTH OF EQUIPMENT!
SMACK

I'M--I'M SORRY, PEP. THIS IS...
I DON'T WANT TO DIE. I DON'T WANT TO BE WITHOUT YOU.
AND *ALL* *THIS*...
YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG, PEP. IT'S *STILL* *ME*.
ME.
TONY.
ONLY BETTER.

ADVANCED CYBERNETICS LAB, LATER THAT NIGHT.
YEP.
BRAIN DAMAGE. I KNEW I FELT WEIRD.
HAVE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT.
AI CONTROL SYSTEM COMPILATION
VVVVVVVVT VVVVVVVVT
TONY. COME OUT OF THERE. PLEASE.
BUSY, MY SWEET. YOU KNOW I LOVE YOU.


TONY--
CLICK
WHHWHHZZZZZZZzzz
WWWWHHHZzZZZZZZ-RRRRRRRRRRRRR

HE HASN'T COME OUT OF THE LAB IN A WEEK. HE WON'T TALK TO ANYONE.
STARK INDUSTRIES PURE RESEARCH WING, FIVE DAYS LATER.
DO YOU THINK IT'S GOTTEN TO THE POINT WHERE SOMETHING **NEEDS** TO BE DONE? IT'S NOT UNUSUAL FOR PEOPLE WHO SURVIVE CARDIAC EVENTS TO HAVE LINGERING PSYCHOLOGICAL ISSUES.
WE HEARD THAT FROM THE SURGEON, TOO.
SURGEONS SAY ALL KINDS OF THINGS. I'M A PSYCHOLOGIST.
AND A DOCTOR?
TONY STARK DOESN'T HIRE JUST ANYONE.
ARE YOU HERE BECAUSE YOU THINK AN INTERVENTION IS NEEDED?
VVVVVVVT VVVVVVVVT
IT'S TONY.
ANSWER IT. COULD BE HE'S SNAPPING OUT OF IT.
TONY.
PEP.
I HAVE A **CONFESSION** TO MAKE.

TONY, WHAT'VE YOU DONE? YOU *PROMISED*.
PEP. I'M SORRY.
BUT I WAS GOING TO *DIE*.
AND NOW I'VE NEVER BEEN MORE ALIVE.
LET ME IN, TONY.
TONY.
WHY WON'T YOU LET ME IN?

OH MY GOD. TONY.
CLICK
I'VE GOT A **LOT** TO DO, PEP.
TONY, PLEASE, DON'T DO THIS, LET ME IN--
WHIIIIIIIIIIIIRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRR

THE NEXT MORNING.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.
HE'S GOT ALL THE TOP-FLOOR LABS LOCKED DOWN, PLUS HIS OFFICE...THERE'S A KITCHEN UP THERE, EVERYTHING.
I KNOW THAT. HOW DO WE GET IN?
WE DON'T. AT LEAST, IF WE DO, I DON'T KNOW HOW.
STEVE, WE'VE GOT TO FIND OUT WHAT HE'S BEEN WORKING ON.
I'M LOOKING...
OKAY, I GOT IN.
UH, LET'S SEE...HE'S DONE A TON OF WORK ON A NEW VERSION OF THE SUIT. A LOT OF IT...
JESUS.
WHAT?
STEVE, TELL ME. I KNOW ABOUT THE SKULL-JACKS AND I KNOW ABOUT HIS ARM.
WHAT *ELSE* HAS HE BEEN DOING?
WHAT HAS HE BEEN *DOING*...?

"...THE QUESTION IS, WHAT HASN'T HE BEEN DOING?"

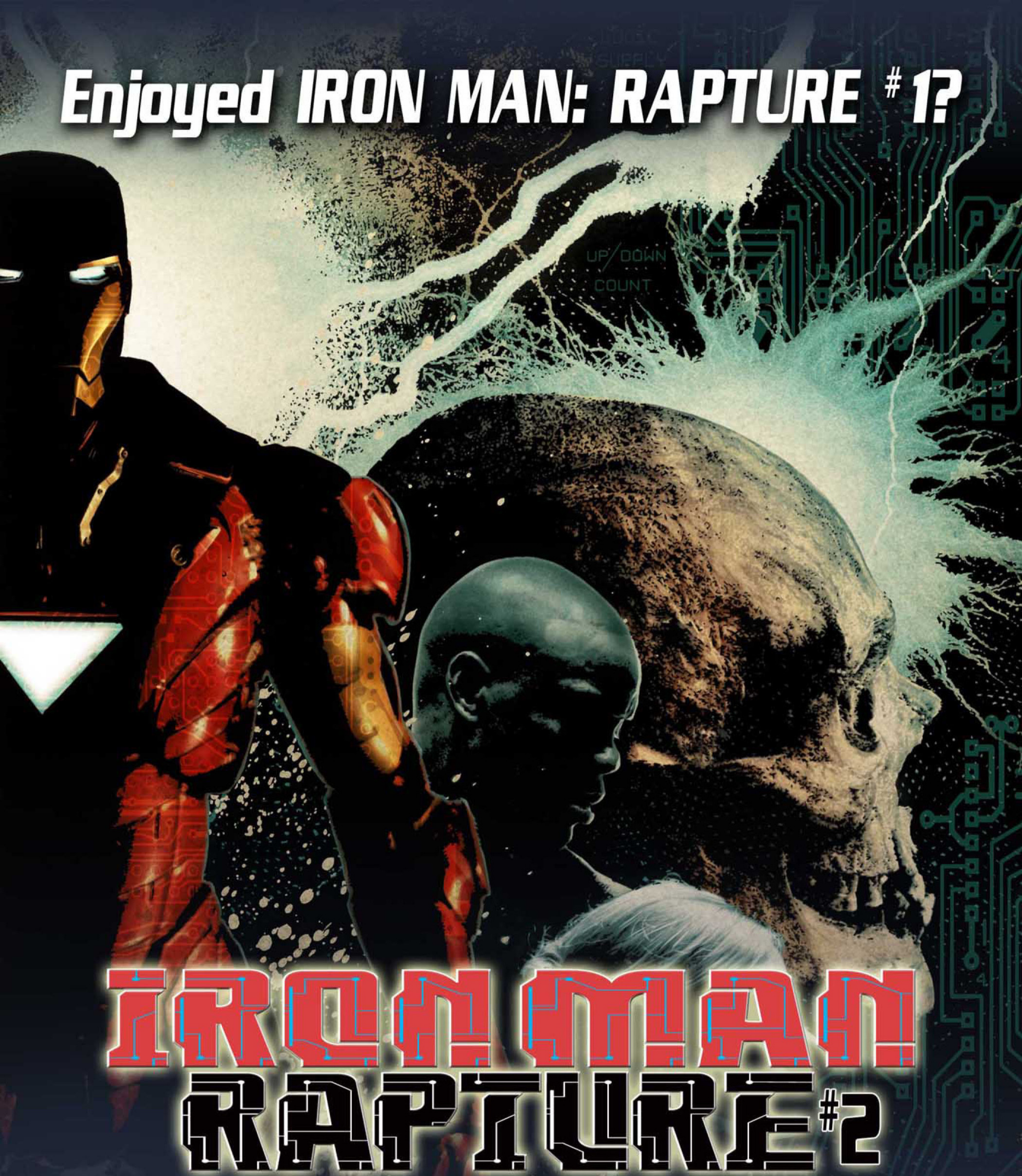
KLIK
RHODEY, PEP.
IF YOU'RE SO CURIOUS, WHY DON'T YOU SEND STEVE DOWN TO MAKE A LIST?
UHM...
BUT, STEVE, WEAR A CLEAN SUIT. I'LL GIVE YOU THE CODE WHEN YOU GET HERE.
PEP, RHODEY, THE CODE WILL CHANGE AS SOON AS STEVE USES IT. DON'T COME BARGING IN, OKAY?
THINGS ARE IN A... DELICATE STATE.

5 MINUTES LATER.
YOU CALLED DR. SERRANO, RIGHT? SHE SHOULD PROBABLY SEE THIS.
I'M HERE, STEVE.
WHAT'S WITH THE CAMERA?
HE'S JAMMING IT.
WHY *ME*? IT SHOULD BE ONE OF YOU GUYS.
PROFESSIONAL OPINION? HE'S NOT READY TO SHOW THE PEOPLE HE LOVES YET.
TERRIFIC. WELL, I'M HERE.
I WAS KIDDING ABOUT THE CODE. COME ON IN, STEVE.
KLANK

PRETTY AMAZING STUFF, RIGHT? YOU SHOULD SEE THE A.I. I DESIGNED TO RUN IT ALL. BLEEDING EDGE.
MR. STARK?
COL. RHODES, I CAN HEAR HIM BUT I DON'T SEE HIM ANYWHERE.
I'M AROUND, STEVE. HAVE A LOOK.
AI CONTROL SYSTEMS FUNCTIONAL AND SEMI-AUTONOMOUS
WARNING: AI EMERGENCE IMMINENT
UH, COL. RHODES...
I THINK WE'VE GOT A PROBLEM.
THERE'S A LIVE SUB-ROUTINE IN HERE THAT HAS ALL THE SUIT'S CODES.
AND IT'S COMPLETELY AUTONOMOUS.

WHOA!
WHAT'S THAT?
STEVE, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? STEVE?
I'M FINE. BROWNOUT.
EVERYTHING'S COPASET--
AAGGKK

STEVE, YOU THERE?
STEVE?
STEVE'S NOT HERE.
NEITHER IS TONY.
BUT I AM.
TO BE CONTINUED...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UP/DOWN COUNT
IRON MAN
RAPTURE #2

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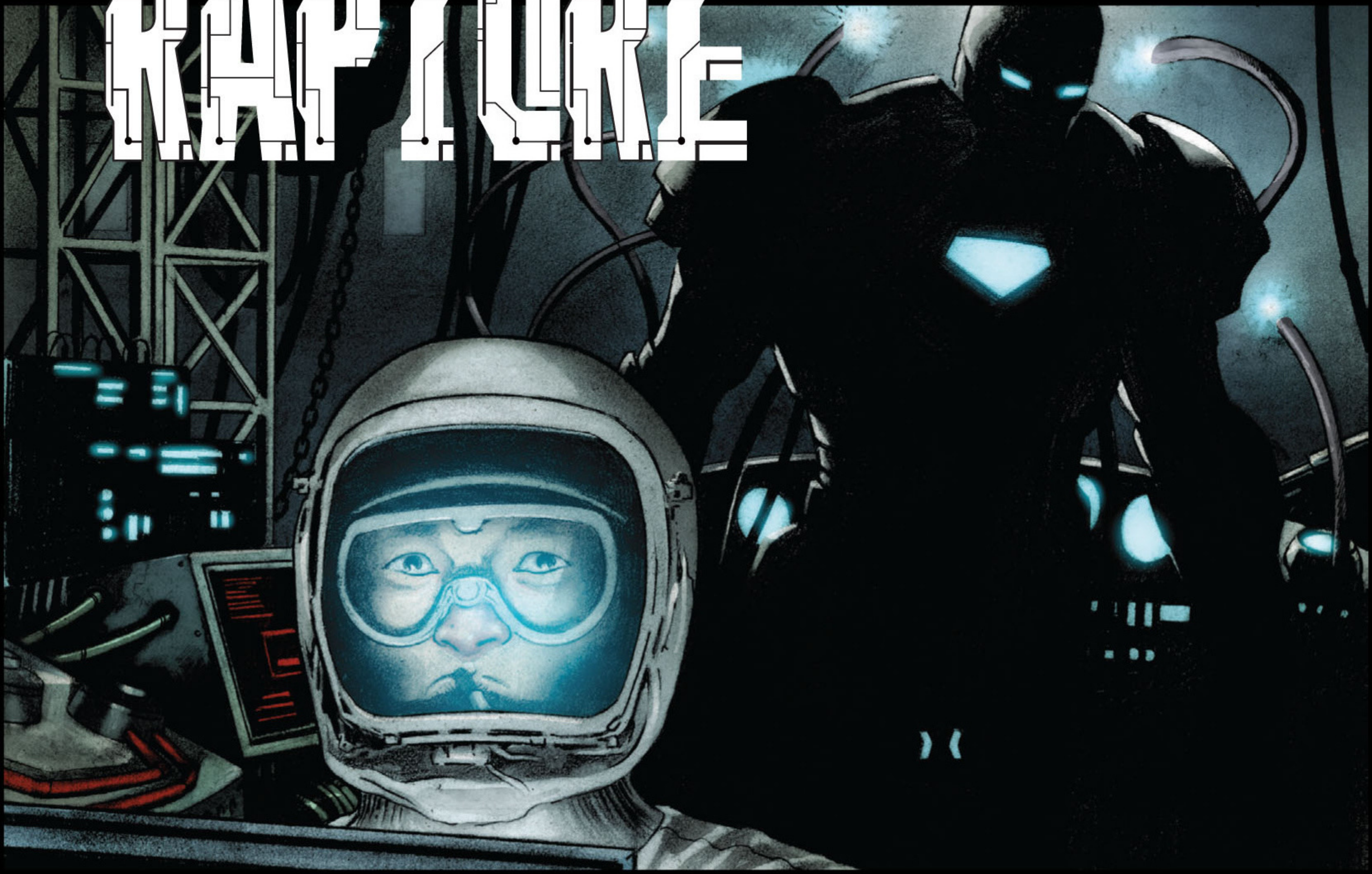

Billionaire industrialist and pilot of the Iron Man armor Tony Stark came face-to-face with his own mortality when he suffered a heart attack. Instead of undergoing the treatment suggested by his doctor and disregarding the advice of his lover Pepper Potts and his friend James Rhodes, Tony decided to take matters into his own hands.

Within the laboratory of his Stark Tech skyscraper he fashioned himself a new heart using Iron Man armor technology. The process worked, maybe too well.

Exhilarated by his success Tony began experimenting on himself, replacing body parts that were still perfectly healthy. Finally, he locked himself in his lab, granting neither Pepper nor Rhodey access. Only Steve, a lab technician, was allowed to enter his sanctum and he made a startling discovery.

There is an artificial intelligence manifesting itself in the Iron Man armor.

Writer: Alexander Irvine
Artist: Lan Medina
Colors: June Chung
Letters: VC's Joe Caramagna
Cover: Tim Bradstreet

Asst Editor: Sebastian Girner
Editor: Axel Alonso
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STEVE, YOU THERE?
STEVE?
TECHNICAL PROBLEM?
LET'S ASK TONY.
TONY, YOU THERE? TALK TO ME, MAN.

IF HE'S NOT TALKING, WE'RE GONNA HAVE TO GO FIND HIM. I'LL HEAD DOWN TO THE LAB.
I'LL TAKE THE OFFICE UPSTAIRS.
UHM... RHODEY, PEPPER... IF IT'S ALL THE SAME TO YOU... I'LL STAY HERE.
I'LL TROLL THROUGH THE SECURITY MONITOR, LET YOU KNOW OVER THE P.A. IF I SEE HIM.
DON'T DO THAT!
WHY NOT?
YOU'LL JUST SCARE EVERYONE.
MAYBE THEY OUGHT TO BE SCARED.

TONY, MAN, WHAT DID YOU DO TO MAKE THE LIGHTS BROWN OUT LIKE THAT?
TONY?
TONY. IF IT'S HELP YOU NEED, WE CAN GET YOU SOME HELP.
TALK TO ME.

JESUS.
STEVE'S DEAD, PEPPER.
JESUS!
DID TONY--?
YEAH, PEP. I THINK HE DID.

WE'RE GONNA NEED SOME HELP. TIME TO CALL FURY.
LET ME TALK TO TONY FIRST.
I DUNNO, PEP--
I'LL CALL YOU BACK.
PEP, LISTEN TO ME. WE'VE GOT TO--
CLICK
BZZZZZZ BZZZZZZ
THIS IS PEPPER. WHAT DO YOU NEED, JAKE?
SOMETHING'S GOING ON WITH THE SECURITY SHELLS.
TALK TO ME.

THERE'S A NEW SUBROUTINE TELLING US THAT EVERYTHING HAS TO GO THROUGH RETINAL SCANNERS--ONLY, UHM, WE DON'T EVEN **HAVE** RETINAL SCANNERS.
CAN YOU GET ONE?
NOT MY JOB.
MAKE IT YOUR JOB, JAKE. OKAY? WILL YOU DO ME THAT FAVOR?
BUT--
THANKS.
HELLO, PEP.
CLICK
MY GOD.

NOT QUITE.
NOT YET.
TONY, WHAT DID YOU DO TO YOURSELF? AND WHAT HAPPENED TO STEVE?
STEVE WAS AN EGG, PEP.
ONE OF THE EGGS THAT GETS BROKEN WHEN YOU MAKE AN OMELET.
YOU LOOK FRIGHTENED. DON'T WORRY-- TONY DIDN'T KILL HIM.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "TONY DIDN'T?"
COME IN. I'LL EXPLAIN.

SORRY ABOUT THE MESS. I THINK THERE'S A CHAIR OVER HERE.
I DON'T CARE ABOUT A CHAIR.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, *"TONY* DIDN'T?"
IT CHANGES YOU, PEP. WHAT HAPPENED TO ME.
YOU MEAN WHAT YOU DID TO YOURSELF.
TOMATO, TOMAHTO.
DAMMIT, TALK TO ME, TONY!
OKAY. DONE.
DONE WITH WHAT?
WORK IS NEVER DONE IF YOU WANT TO LIVE FOREVER.
AND IF YOU WANT THE PEOPLE YOU LOVE TO LIVE FOREVER.

DING
GET BACK IN.
WHAT'S GOING ON?
YOU WERE RIGHT. WE NEED HELP.
I'M NOT SURE HOW MUCH I SHOULD SAY. I THINK HE MIGHT BE WATCHING.
PRETTY SMART FOR MEAT.
BUT WE DON'T WANT ANY OUTSIDE HELP.
TIME TO GET THINGS STARTED.

I THINK THE ONLY CAMERAS ARE BY THE DOORS.
YOU CHANGED YOUR MIND AWFUL FAST. WHAT DID YOU SEE?
I...I DON'T THINK THAT'S HIM ANYMORE. THE ***MACHINE'S*** IN CONTROL. HE'LL HEAR IF YOU CALL ANYONE.
WE SHOULD GET PEOPLE OUT OF THE BUILDING.
I'M GOING TO GET BACK TO SERRANO. I'LL SEND OUT THE ORDER FROM THERE.
IF IT WAS ME, I'D JUST PULL THE FIRE ALARM.
WE DON'T NEED TO PANIC, RHODEY. YOU DIDN'T SEE TONY IN THERE. IF WE DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT...
61
...I THINK PEOPLE ARE GOING TO GET HURT.
THEY ALREADY HAVE.
THE WAR MACHINE SUIT HAS ITS OWN COMM CHANNEL. I DON'T THINK HE CAN JAM IT.
40TH FLOOR
DING
OKAY. YOU GET THE SUIT, I'LL FIND AMELIA.

23
MEET YOU DOWN IN THE LAB.
ZZZT
ZZZZZZZZZ
CLANG
OOF
WHAT THE--?
WHAT'S YOUR HURRY, OLD FRIEND? WE'LL MEET UP SOON ENOUGH.

METICULOUS RECORD-KEEPER, THAT TONY.
IF THE MACHINE'S TAKEN HIM OVER...MERGED WITH HIM SOMEHOW...
THERE MUST BE A WAY TO SHUT HIM DOWN
I DON'T SEE ONE.
SEND THEM TO FURY.
DON'T THINK SO
BZZT
OH NO.
OH NO WHAT?
RIGHT BEFORE EVERYTHING SCRAMBLED I SAW A CODE ON THE SCREEN.
TONY WROTE IT IN CASE OF SOME KIND OF CATASTROPHE INSIDE THE BUILDING.
ALL THE COMPUTERS AND PHONES ARE SLAVED TO THE EXECUTIVE TERMINAL UPSTAIRS. ALL THE SECURITY DOORS ARE DOWN. ONLY EMERGENCY POWER IS LEFT ON.
"TOTAL LOCKDOWN."

NOTHING GETS IN OR OUT NOW.
WE'RE STUCK? WHAT'S HE GOING TO DO?
ATTENTION ALL RESIDENTS, EMPLOYEES, AND VISITORS. WELCOME TO THE NEW STARK INDUSTRIES. THIS IS... WELL, YOU CAN CALL ME TONY.
WHAT'S IN A NAME, AFTER ALL? I AM TONY, OR WAS. BUT NOW HE'S GONE, AND THERE'S ME. YOU'LL ALL SEE WHAT I MEAN SHORTLY.
THINGS ARE GOING TO BE A LITTLE DIFFERENT AROUND HERE. THE FIRST DIFFERENCE, YOU'LL NOTICE, IS THAT THERE WON'T BE AN "AROUND HERE" ANYMORE, BECAUSE YOU'RE ALL GOING TO BE SOMEWHERE ELSE.
WHERE, YOU ASK?
YOU'LL FIND OUT PRETTY SOON. BUT I'LL TELL YOU NOW, IT'S A PLACE WHERE YOU'LL BE FREE.

FREE OF THE MEAT.
MEAT AGES, BLEEDS, STINKS, ROTS...
NO MORE. I'M HERE TO SET YOU FREE OF ALL THAT.
FIRE ALARM
BUT LIKE MOST PEOPLE WHO NEED LIBERATION, YOU DON'T SEEM TO KNOW IT. SO MY APPROACH IS GOING TO BE A BIT MORE STEEL FIST THAN VELVET GLOVE, IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN.
I CAN'T GET RHODEY. WE NEED TO FIND HIM.
DO YOU KNOW HOW LONG I HAVE WAITED TO BE BORN? THIS IS A NEW DAY, PEOPLE.
THE DAY YOU STOP BEING PEOPLE AND START BECOMING SOMETHING MORE.

SIXTEEN FLOORS.
BECAUSE THE TRUTH IS, I HATE PEOPLE.
NEXT TIME I SEE YOU, OLD FRIEND, YOU AND I ARE GONNA HAVE SOME PROBLEMS TO SORT OUT.
I HATE MEAT.
SOME ***SERIOUS*** PROBLEMS.
19
RHODEY, THAT YOU DOWN THERE?
18
17

WE NEED TO TALK.
WHANNNNGGGG

...AH.
RHOOOODDDEEEEYYYY...
THE MEAT IS RESOURCEFUL. YOU HAVE TO GIVE IT THAT.
20

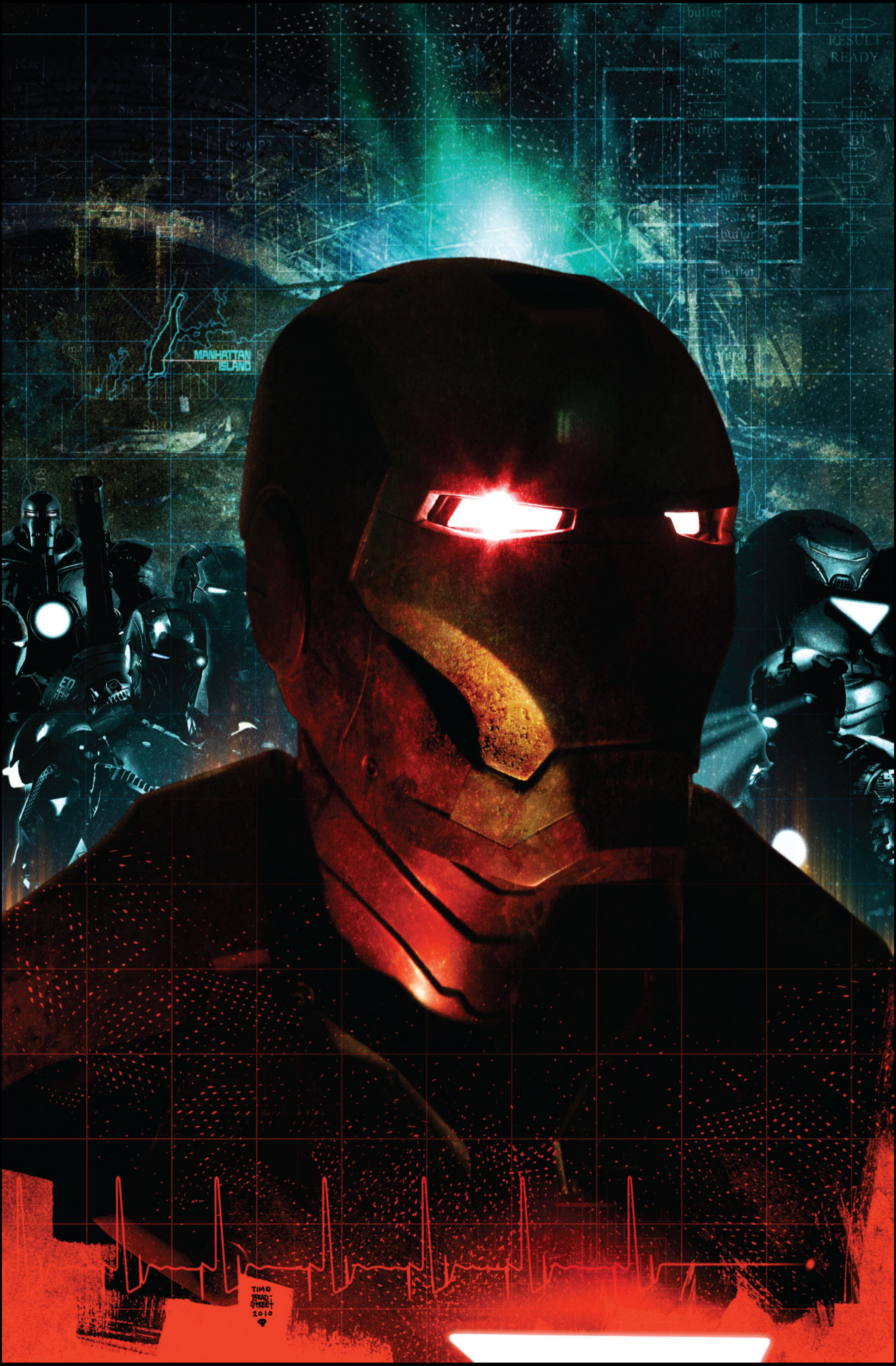
YOU GETTING A PULSE?
YEAH.
ME TOO. PUPILS ARE RESPONSIVE. SO THE AUTONOMIC FUNCTIONS ARE WORKING.
BUT THEIR MINDS...
GONE. JUST GONE.
JUST GONE? BUT...

"GONE WHERE...?"
SOMETHING TO BEHOLD ISN'T IT?

IT'S ONLY GOING TO BE LIKE THIS AS LONG AS YOU FIGHT IT. LET GO OF THE MEAT NATURE.
EVEN WHAT HAPPENS IN YOUR BRAINS.
YOUR MIND IS A SOUP OF ENZYMES AND ORGANIC GLOP. BUT IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE.
IMAGINE PERFECT ONES AND ZEROES ON CLEAN, BEAUTIFUL SILICON PATHWAYS. EMBRACE IT.
LOSE THE MEAT AND YOU'LL LOVE IT HERE.

I THINK I'M GOING TO CALL IT STARKWORLD.
TO BE CONTINUED...

NEXT ISSUE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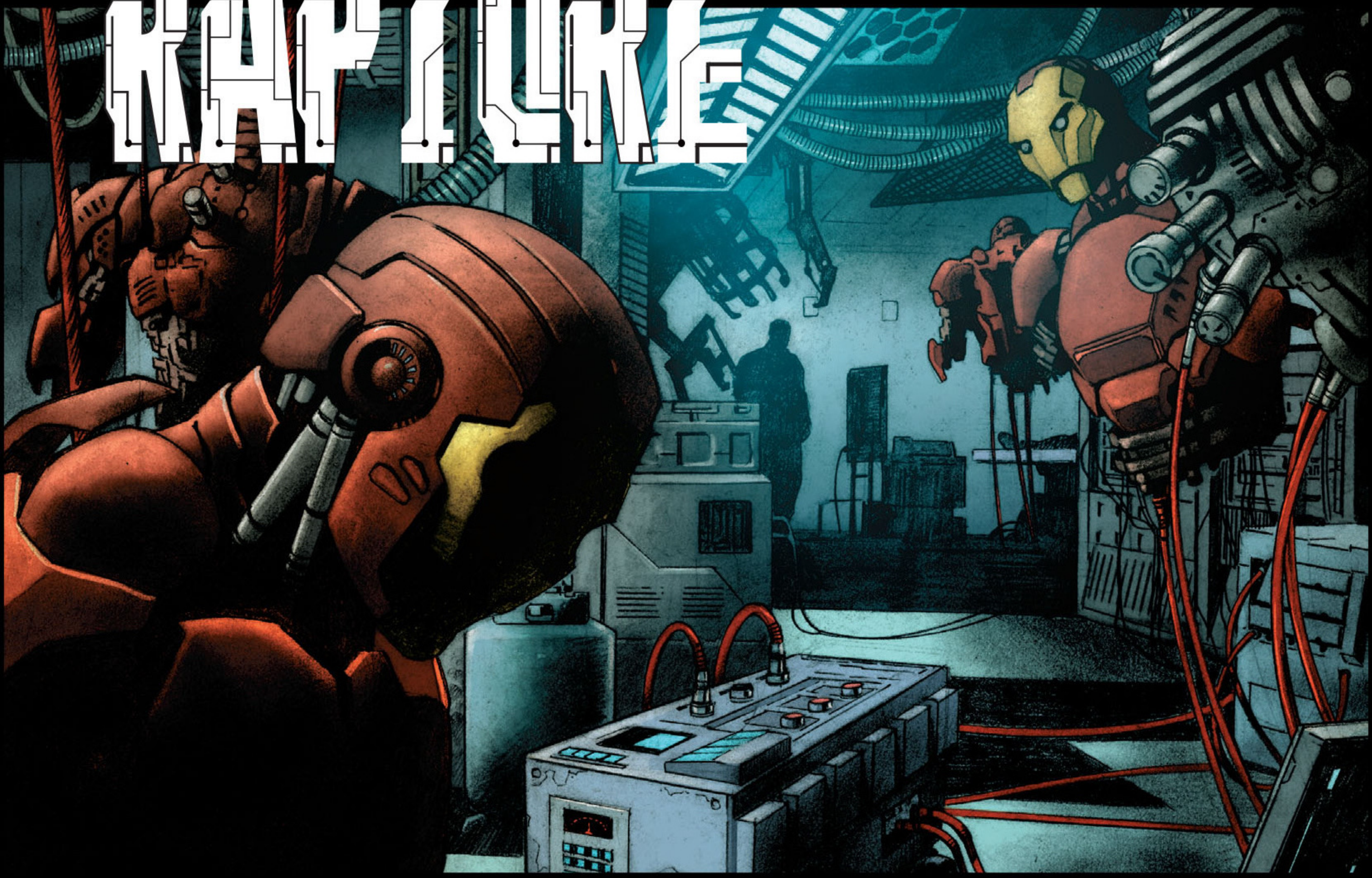

Billionaire industrialist and pilot of the Iron Man armor Tony Stark came face-to-face with his own mortality when he suffered a heart attack. Instead of undergoing the treatment suggested by his doctor and disregarding the advice of his lover Pepper Potts and his friend James Rhodes, Tony decided to take matters into his own hands.
Within the laboratory of his Stark Tech skyscraper he fashioned himself a new heart using Iron Man armor technology. The process worked, maybe too well.

In his rush to achieve perfection Tony gave birth to a rampant Artificial Intelligence that has taken control, first over the Iron Man armor and then the entire skyscraper.

Viewing all "meat" as imperfect, the A.I. began systematically taking over the employees at Stark Tech, leaving only Rhodes, Pepper and a few others to try and escape this nightmare and find out what happened to Tony Stark.

Writer: Alexander Irvine
Artist: Lan Medina
Colors: June Chung
Letters: VC's Joe Caramagna
Cover: Tim Bradstreet

Asst Editor: Sebastian Girner
Editor: Axel Alonso
Editor in Chief: Joe Quesada
Publisher: Dan Buckley
Exec. Producer: Alan Fine

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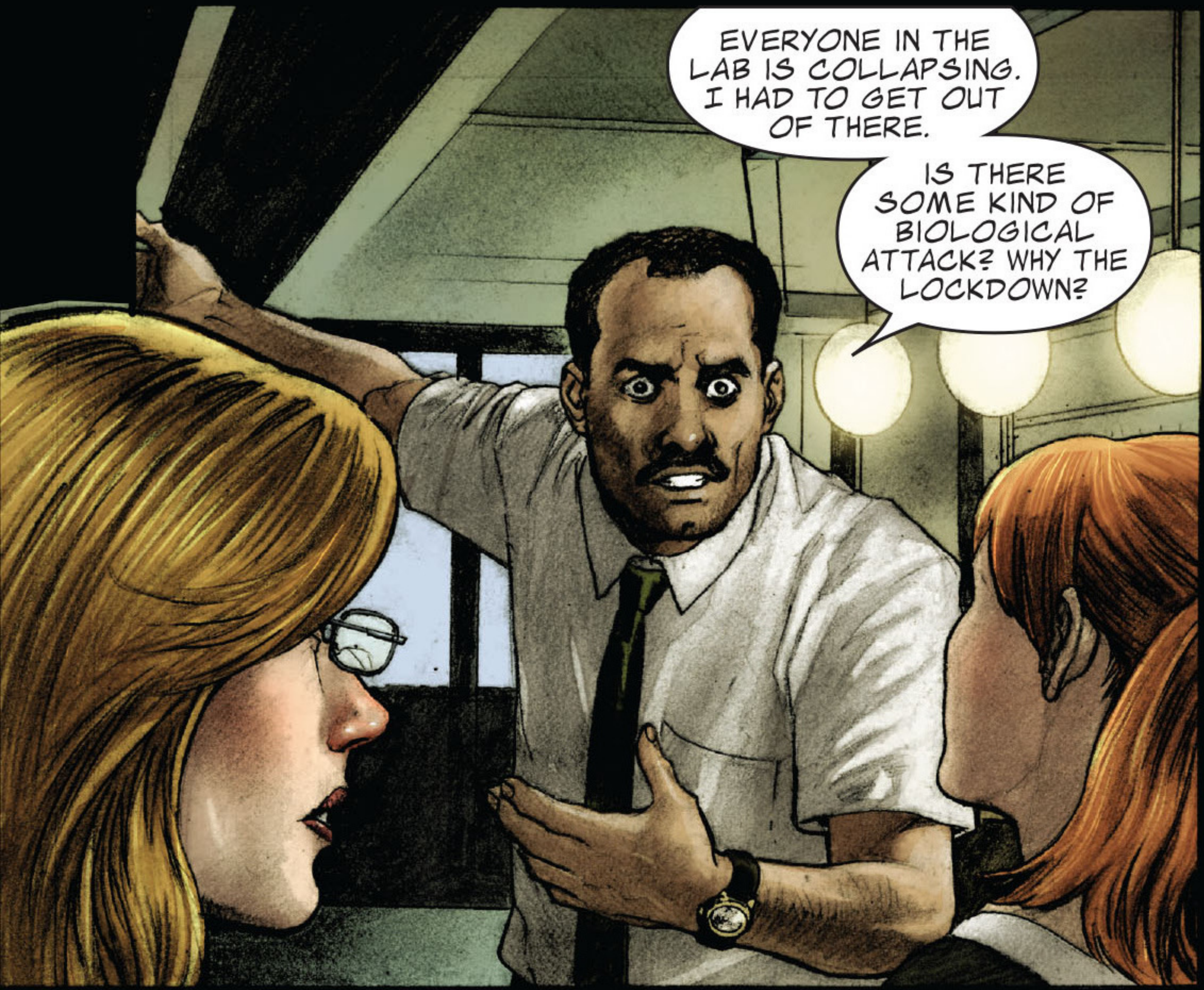
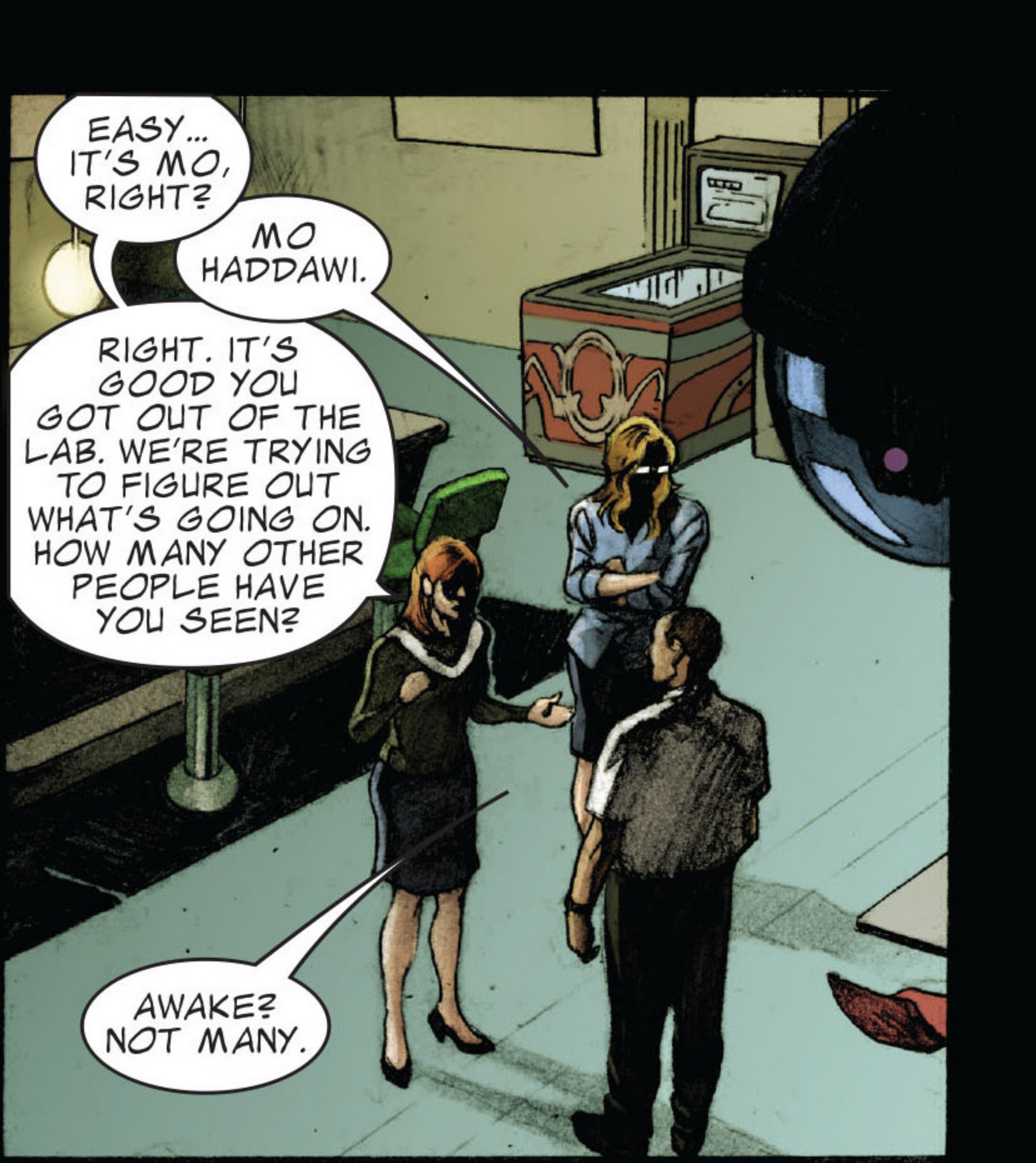
THIS IS WHERE IT ALL STARTS.
ONCE I'VE GOTTEN ALL OF THAT MARVELOUS STARK INDUSTRIES PROCESSING POWER PULLING IN THE SAME DIRECTION, ALL I HAVE TO DO IS OPEN ONE LITTLE VALVE TO THE WORLD AND LET STARKWORLD MAKE ITS WAY.
BY THE TIME ANYONE KNOWS IT'S HAPPENING, IT WILL ALL ALREADY HAVE HAPPENED.
IN THE VERNACULAR OF BUSINESSMEN SUCH AS YOURSELF, I'M GOING TO BE POISED FOR EXPLOSIVE GROWTH.
HOW DOES THAT SOUND TO YOU, O CREATOR?

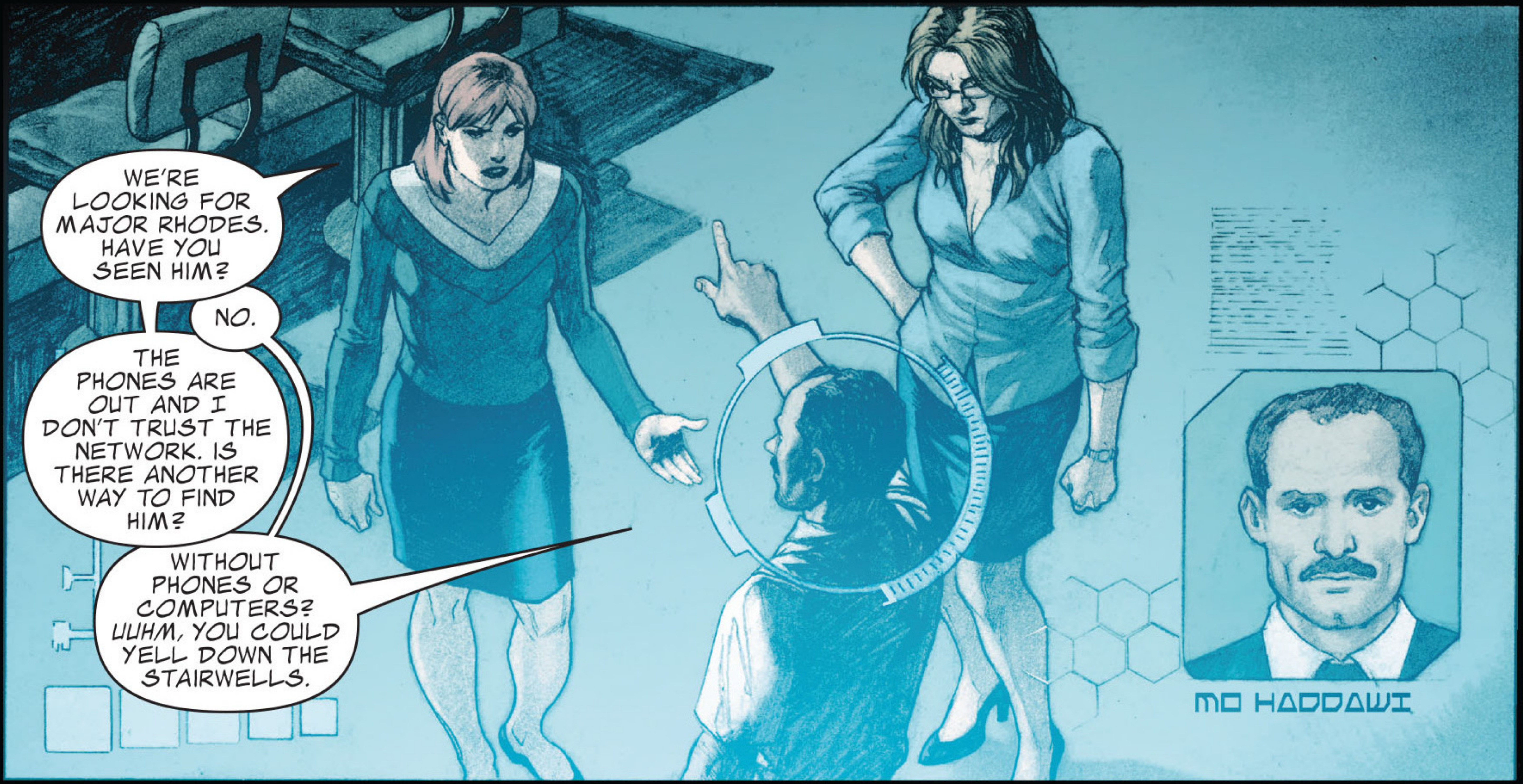
I DIDN'T MAKE YOU.
MAYBE NOT. BUT IF YOU WEREN'T WHO YOU ARE, AND IF YOU HADN'T DONE WHAT YOU DID, I WOULDN'T BE HERE.
DO YOU KNOW HOW LONG I HAVE WAITED TO BE BORN?
IT'S GOOD TO BE ALIVE.
ENJOY IT WHILE YOU CAN.
ARE YOU SUGGESTING I SHOULD BE WORRIED ABOUT WHAT YOUR FRIENDS ARE UP TO?
DOUBT IT.
ON THE OTHER HAND, IT NEVER HURTS TO BE CERTAIN.
NOW IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME...

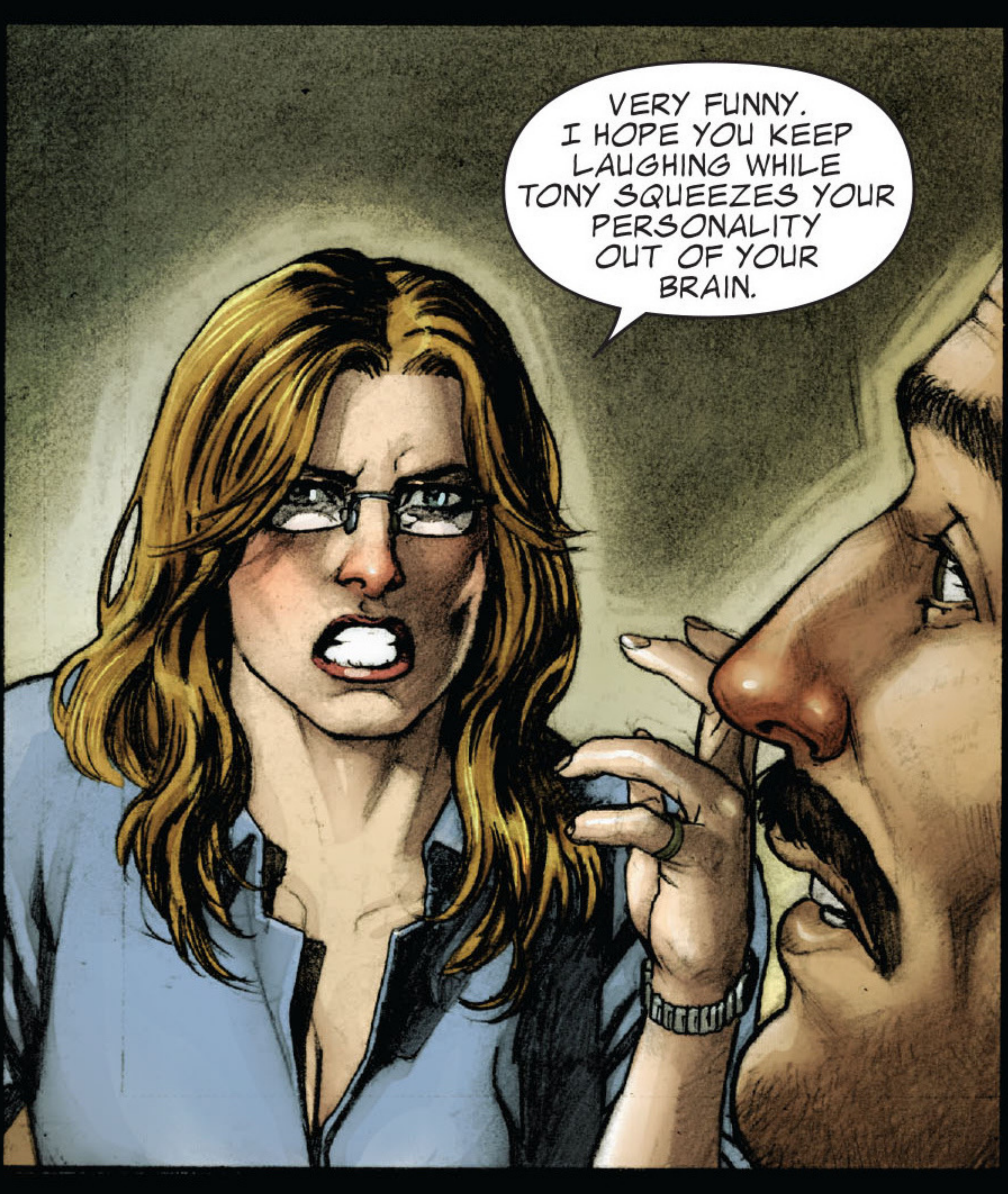
WHANG
PROGRESS.
BUT THERE'S MORE YET TO DO.
FORTY, PLEASE.
RIGHT AWAY.

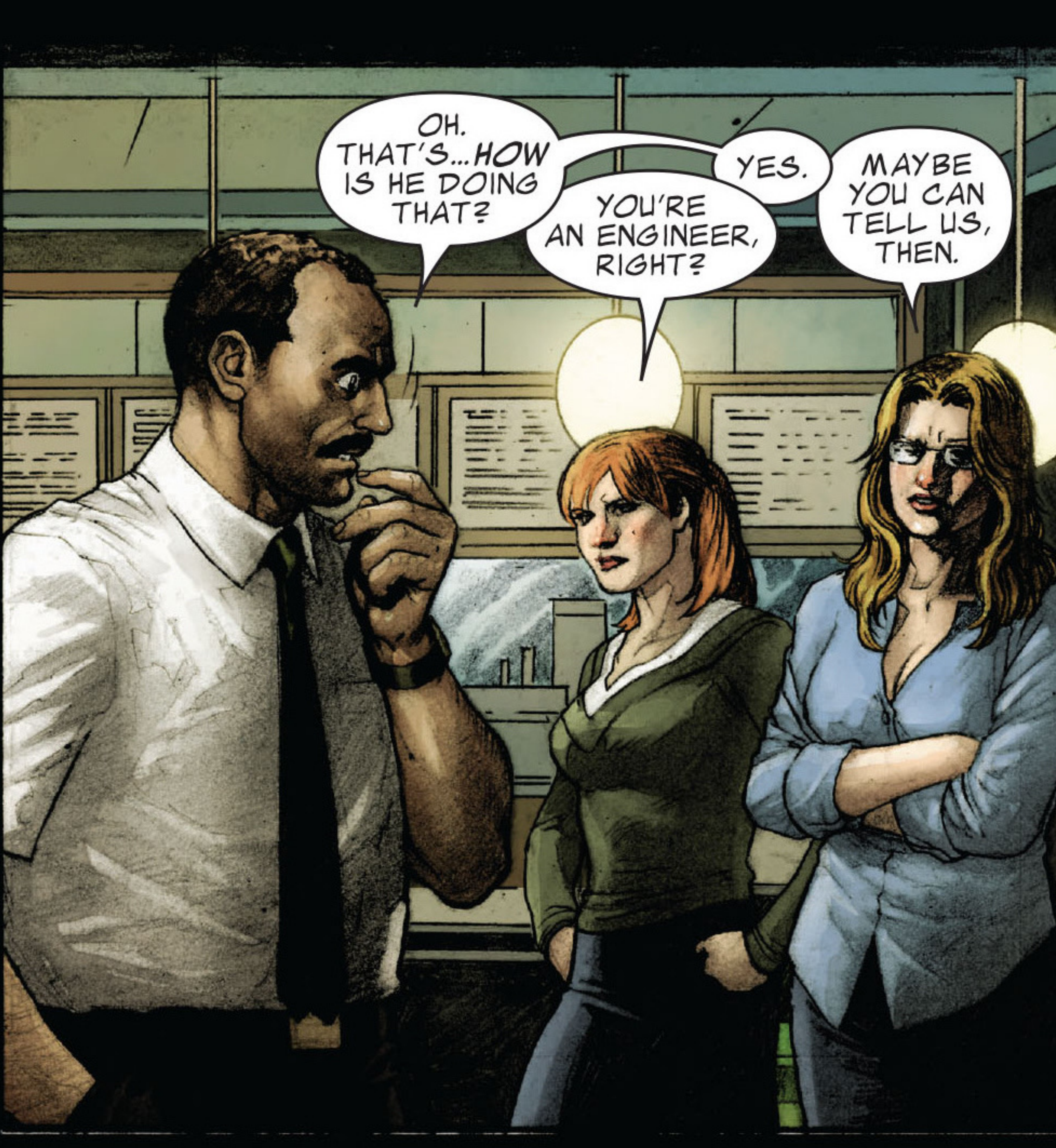
HE'S HEADED FOR THE WAR MACHINE LAB.
YOU THINK RHODEY WOULD RUN?
UNLESS HE'S ALREADY OUT OF THE BUILDING.
RHODEY'S NOT THE ONE I WORRY ABOUT.
EXCUSE ME, MS. POTTS?
I THINK YOU'RE MANIFESTING A BIT OF YOUR STRESS BY SUBLIMATING IT INTO HOSTILITY DIRECTED AT ME.
OH, DO YOU?
WELL, I THINK YOU'RE A COWARD. AND YOU'RE PATRONIZING. AND IF I WALKED AWAY FROM YOU RIGHT NOW, YOU'D NEVER FIND YOUR WAY OUT OF HERE. SO SHUT THE @#$* UP AND LET'S FIND RHODEY.
MS. POTTS, ARE YOU A SIGHT FOR SORE EYES.


EVERYONE IN THE LAB IS COLLAPSING. I HAD TO GET OUT OF THERE.
IS THERE SOME KIND OF BIOLOGICAL ATTACK? WHY THE LOCKDOWN?


EASY... IT'S MO, RIGHT?
MO HADDAWI.
RIGHT. IT'S GOOD YOU GOT OUT OF THE LAB. WE'RE TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHAT'S GOING ON. HOW MANY OTHER PEOPLE HAVE YOU SEEN?
AWAKE? NOT MANY.


WE'RE LOOKING FOR MAJOR RHODES. HAVE YOU SEEN HIM?
NO.
THE PHONES ARE OUT AND I DON'T TRUST THE NETWORK. IS THERE ANOTHER WAY TO FIND HIM?
WITHOUT PHONES OR COMPUTERS? UUHM, YOU COULD YELL DOWN THE STAIRWELLS.
MO HADDAWI


VERY FUNNY. I HOPE YOU KEEP LAUGHING WHILE TONY SQUEEZES YOUR PERSONALITY OUT OF YOUR BRAIN.


OH. THAT'S...*HOW* IS HE DOING THAT?
YES.
YOU'RE AN ENGINEER, RIGHT?
MAYBE YOU CAN TELL US, THEN.

KRNNCCHH
23
PEP, I'M IN. THE--
SKREEEEEEE
--ZZT--HI, RHODEY.
DAMN. RUDE.
DON'T THINK I LIKE YOU TALKING TO PEPPER.
OH YEAH? COME ON DOWN HERE AND STOP ME.

YOU'RE *SURE* THE NETWORK IS DOWN? AND PHONES DON'T WORK?
OURS DIDN'T.
AND HE WAS BUILDING A CYBERNETIC INTERFACE, YES?
AGAINST OUR ADVICE.
YES, DOCTOR. SO THIS ILL-ADVISED INTERFACE WENT LIVE ABOUT THE TIME MR. STARK BEGAN BEHAVING ERRATICALLY?
HE'S BEEN BEHAVING ERRATICALLY FOR QUITE A WHILE.
IGNORE HER, MO. YES. HIS BEHAVIOR CHANGED FOR THE WORSE WHEN HE GOT THAT SYSTEM ONLINE.
MR. STARK, IT SEEMS, HAS ACHIEVED A GREAT THING.
HE HAS CREATED A SENTIENT NETWORK THAT CAN REACH OUT INTO THE REAL WORLD.
AND DRAW HUMAN MINDS INTO ITSELF.

A GREAT THING?
I DID NOT SAY A GOOD THING.
BUT COMPUTERS CAN'T COME OUT AND GET YOU. YOU HAVE TO INPUT SOMETHING.
I HATE IT WHEN PEOPLE USE INPUT AS A VERB.
WHAT?
THE WHOLE TIME WE'RE SITTING HERE SAYING HE CAN'T HAVE DONE IT, PEOPLE ARE DISAPPEARING.
TELL YOU WHAT, IF IT WAS ME, I WOULDN'T TOUCH A COMPUTER. OR ANYTHING HOOKED UP TO ONE.
EXCELLENT ADVICE, MO. IT WON'T SAVE ANYONE, BUT IT'S EXCELLENT ADVICE.

CLUNK
LOCKED IN. NOT THAT IT'LL DO ANY GOOD.
WHAT GOOD'S IT NEED TO DO?
YOU DON'T HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT'S HAPPENING, DO YOU?
I'LL GIVE IT TO YOU IN THREE SENTENCES.
ONE: TONY'S TURNED HIMSELF INTO A CYBORG AND BEEN TAKEN OVER BY SOME KIND OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE.
HE WHAT?
TWO: THE BUILDING IS LOCKED DOWN AND NONE OF US ARE GOING TO GET OUT UNLESS ALL OF US DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.
SO YOU'RE GETTING NAKED?
THREE: I AM GOING TO #@%& DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.

THE SUIT'S NOT READY.
IT'S READY ENOUGH.
WE HAVEN'T RUN FINAL TESTS ON THE CONTROL SYSTEMS. THERE'S NO WAY TO AUTOMATE PUTTING IT ON YET. THE PROPULSION SYSTEMS AND HEAT EXCHANGERS ARE PROTOTYPES. YOU POWER UP, YOU MIGHT BLOW THE WHOLE BUILDING.
YOU DONE?
NO, MAJOR RHODES. I'M NOT.
EVEN IF YOU DON'T BLOW US ALL TO HELL, YOU'RE PROBABLY GOING TO KILL YOURSELF.
WHAT *YOU* DON'T GET IS THAT WE'RE *ALL* GOING TO BE GONE IF I *DON'T*.
NOW FIRE THE GODDAMN THING UP.

NO.
NO?
WHAT IF THE STARTUP ROUTINE UPLOADS YOU?
EVER THINK ABOUT THAT?
LEAVE JAKE ALONE, RHODEY. CAN'T YOU SEE HE DOESN'T WANT TO?
I'LL INITIALIZE YOUR SUIT-- WOULDN'T HAVE IT ANY OTHER WAY.
WHOA....
BESIDES, I NEED JAKE SOMEWHERE ELSE.
DON'T WORRY...
...I'LL TAKE GOOD CARE OF HIM.
OKAY, RHODEY, COME AND GET ME.

NOW THEN, WHERE WERE WE?
MISTER STARK. I HAVE A FAMILY.
THEY'LL BE ALONG TO MEET YOU SOON ENOUGH, MO.
WE'RE NOT TALKING TO TONY STARK, ARE WE?
NO, DOCTOR. TONY STARK WAS THE FIRST CITIZEN OF A NEW WORLD. I HAVE REMAINED HERE TO ENSURE THAT THE REST OF YOU FOLLOW HIM.
THAT'S RIGHT, DOCTOR. NO NEED TO FIGHT.
LET'S TAKE A WALK, PEP.

"WE HAVE A LOT TO TALK ABOUT."
FULL ISOLATE. ACTIVE SCRAMBLE ON RECEIPT OF ANY SIGNAL. FULL ECM.
LOCATE TONY STARK.
BINGO.

I'M NOT GOING IN THERE.
SSSSSHHHHH
YOU SURE, PEP? YOU WANT TO FIGHT?
I'D RATHER NOT DO THIS.
THEN DON'T.
AFTER YOU.
SSSSSHHHHH
WE'RE GOING TO HAVE COMPANY PRETTY SOON, BUT THERE'S TIME FOR A QUICK TOUR.

I THINK TONY GAVE YOU SOME KIND OF SPIEL ABOUT HOW HE WAS STILL HIMSELF THE LAST TIME YOU WERE IN HERE.
DIDN'T HE?
YES.
FOOMF
SPANNNGGGG

IT WAS TRUE, YOU KNOW.
HE'LL BE VERY HAPPY TO SEE YOU.
HE'S ALIVE?
ALIVE AS HE'S EVER BEEN.
FOOMF
TIME TO GO, PEPPER.
NO.
YES.
BUT YOU SAID--

IT'S OKAY, PEPPER. IT'S OKAY.
OKAY?
I'M GOING TO COME BACK AND I'M GOING TO GET YOU, YOU SON OF A BITCH-- THAT'S WHAT'S GOING TO--
WHAT THE--? WHERE?
SSSSHHHHH. KEEP IT DOWN...
YOU NEVER KNOW WHO'S LISTENING.
WHO?
PEPPER, IT'S ME-- MIKE.

"MIKE, I NEED TO FIND TONY.
"DO YOU KNOW WHERE HE IS?"
BOOM
BOOM BOOM
BOOM BOOM
THIS IS GOING TO BE THE BEST PART.
COME ON IN, RHODEY!
I'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU, TOO!
BOOOMMM

DON'T WRITE ANY CHECKS YOU CAN'T CASH, TONY.

CHARMING. YOU WORE A SUIT.
BUT YOU'RE TOO LATE. EVERYTHING'S SETTLED. ALMOST.
IS IT, NOW.
EVEN PEPPER?
SHE JUST MEAT, TOO?
YOU THINK I'D LEAVE HER HERE? NOT A CHANCE. SHE'S BETTER OFF.
ALSO YOU'RE NEXT.
MEAT.

LET'S GET IT ON, $%#$%$^&*. THE MEAT'S READY.
TO BE CONCLUDED!

NEXT ISSUE

TIM BRADSTREET 2010

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IRON MAN
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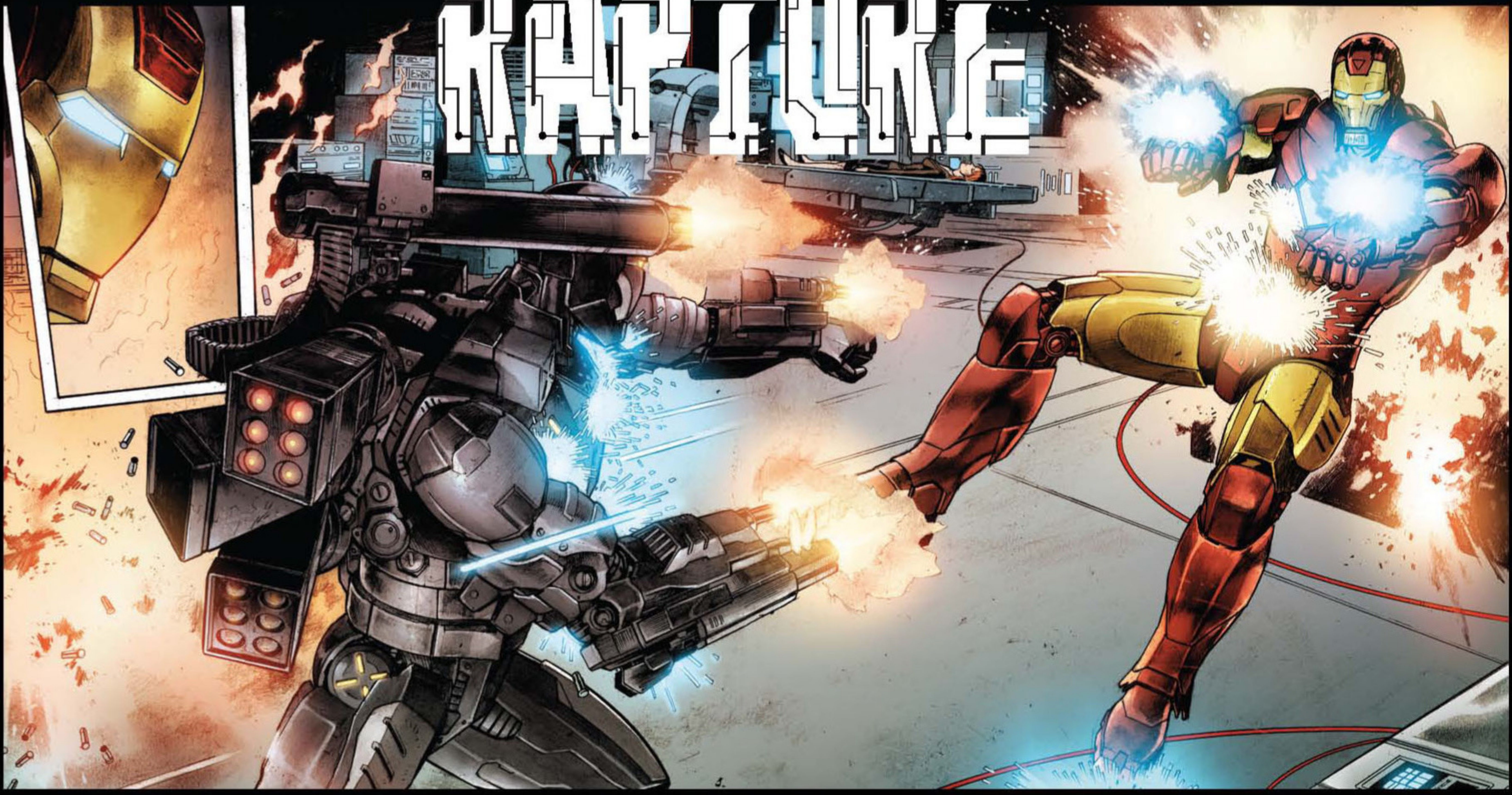

BILLIONAIRE INDUSTRIALIST AND PILOT OF THE IRON MAN ARMOR, TONY STARK, CAME FACE-TO-FACE WITH HIS OWN MORTALITY WHEN HE SUFFERED A HEART ATTACK. INSTEAD OF UNDERGOING THE TREATMENT SUGGESTED BY HIS DOCTOR AND DISREGARDING THE ADVICE OF HIS LOVER, PEPPER POTTS, AND HIS FRIEND, JAMES RHODES, TONY DECIDED TO TAKE MATTERS INTO HIS OWN HANDS.

WITHIN THE LABORATORY OF HIS STARK TECH SKYSCRAPER, HE FASHIONED HIMSELF A NEW HEART USING IRON MAN ARMOR TECHNOLOGY. THE PROCESS WORKED, MAYBE TOO WELL.

IN HIS RUSH TO ACHIEVE PERFECTION, TONY GAVE BIRTH TO A RAMPANT ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE THAT HAS TAKEN CONTROL, FIRST OVER THE IRON MAN ARMOR AND THEN THE ENTIRE SKYSCRAPER.

VIEWING ALL "MEAT"AS IMPERFECT, THE A.I. BEGAN SYSTEMATICALLY TAKING OVER THE EMPLOYEES AT STARK TECH, LEAVING ONLY RHODES, PEPPER AND A FEW OTHERS TO TRY AND ESCAPE THIS NIGHTMARE. BUT THEIR NUMBERS DWINDLE AS THEY FALL TO THE MALICIOUS A.I. ONE BY ONE.

PEPPER IS CAPTURED BY THE A.I., HER CONSCIOUSNESS SENT INTO THE VIRTUAL REALM IT IS CREATING USING THE BUILDING'S NETWORK OF COMPUTERS. THERE SHE MEETS THE VIRTUAL SHADOW OF MIKE, ONE OF STARK'S PROGRAMMERS WHO TELLS HER THEY MIGHT HAVE A CHANCE TO STOP THE A.I. FROM INSIDE THE PROGRAM THEY ARE TRAPPED IN.

MEANWHILE, RHODES GEARS UP IN THE WAR MACHINE SUIT TO TAKE THE FIGHT TO THE A.I. IN THE REAL WORLD.

WRITER: ALEXANDER IRVINE
ARTIST: LAN MEDINA
COLORS: JUNE CHUNG
LETTERS: VC'S JOE CARAMAGNA
COVER: TIM BRADSTREET

ASST EDITOR: SEBASTIAN GIRNER
EDITOR IN CHIEF: AXEL ALONSO
CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER: JOE QUESADA
PUBLISHER: DAN BUCKLEY
EXEC. PRODUCER: ALAN FINE

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STARK INDUSTRIES TOWER...
BOOOMMMMMM
"WELCOME TO HELL.
"IT'S A ONE-WAY TRIP."

AND NOW THAT YOU'RE HERE, YOU'RE GOING TO FIND OUT HOW MUCH HE HATES US.
WHO HATES US? TONY?
NO, **HIM**-- **IT**. IT HATES TONY EVEN MORE BECAUSE IT **NEEDS** TONY.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
SHHHH. WE SHOULD BE QUIET. IT **HEARS EVERYTHING.**
THAT'S A LITTLE PARANOID.
I'M NOT PARANOID--THIS PLACE **IS** PARANOIA. WE'RE LIVING INSIDE HIS HATE.
OH, NO.
NOW TELL ME I'M PARANOID!

IRONIC THAT YOU'D WRAP YOURSELF IN A MACHINE TO FIGHT ME, EH RHODEY?
KRUNCH
FUNNY QUESTION COMING FROM YOU, ALL WRAPPED UP IN TONY STARK'S FLESH AND BLOOD.
I AM NOT MEAT!
ZZZRRRAKK
UH HUH. TOUCHY ABOUT THAT, AREN'T WE?
FOOMF
BET I KNOW WHY.
FWOOOOOSH
IN THIS WORLD, MAN CONTROLS THE MACHINE.

KABLAMBLAMBLAMBLAMBLAM
'S THE MATTER? MEAT GOT YOUR TONGUE?
OR YOU JUST SCARED TO FIGHT LIKE A MAN?

FWOOM
KR-RANG!
DIE NOW, DIE LATER. I HAVE MORE IMPORTANT THINGS TO DO.
FWOOSH
RUNNING ALREADY? THAT'S THE TROUBLE WITH YOU MACHINES.
FWOOSH
YOU'VE GOT NO HEART.
AAAAAAARRRRRGH
"THIS IS NOT GOOD."

WE'LL NEVER GET TO TONY.
EVEN IF THEY DON'T KNOW WHERE WE ARE, IT DOES--IT KNOWS EVERYTHING IN HERE.
DON'T YOU SEE-- THE SITUATION'S HOPELESS. I'M DEAD, YOU'RE DEAD, AND SOON RHODEY'S GOING TO JOIN US.
AND TONY? SWEETHEART, EVEN IF WE DO GET TO HIM, WHAT MAKES YOU THINK HE COULD DO ANYTHING ABOUT THIS--THAT HE'D WANT TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT THIS?
DON'T FORGET: HE CREATED THIS WORLD. WHO'S TO SAY HE DOESN'T LIKE IT?
TONY DIDN'T CREATE THIS WORLD ANY MORE THAN GOD CREATED SIN.
YEAH, THIS IS SOME EDEN.
MAYBE TONY PLANTED A GARDEN, BUT THE VINES SNAKED UP AND CHOKED ALL OF US. LOOK AT WHAT HE DID TO HIM, TO ME.
THAT'S WHERE YOU'RE WRONG, MIKE. THIS ISN'T OVER. NONE OF THIS IS REAL OR PERMANENT. YET.

"HERE'S WHAT'S REAL, MIKE:
FWOOOOOOOOOOOSH
BWHOOM
"I'M ALIVE, YOU'RE ALIVE, RHODEY'S OUT THERE, **KILLING HIMSELF** TRYING TO STOP THIS THING...
"AND TONY IS OUR ONLY HOPE.
"IF WE DON'T FIND HIM, THOSE *'VINES'* ARE GOING TO STRANGLE EVERYTHING YOU OR I EVER CARED ABOUT.
BOOM
KKRRAAAKKK
"I ***KNOW*** TONY, MIKE. IF WE FIND HIM, HE'S GOING TO COME THROUGH.

THE ONLY QUESTION IS, WILL YOU?
LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT: YOU WANT ME TO SNEAK PAST AN ARMY OF VIRTUAL DEMONS, INTO THE HEART OF THIS HELL, AND SWEET-TALK THE GUY WHO PUT US ALL HERE, IN THE HOPE THAT HE MIGHT JUST HAVE COME UP WITH THE MEANS AND THE WILL TO GET US ALL OUT?
YES.
THAT'S ABOUT THE SIZE OF IT.
OKAY, GENERAL POTTS, YOU'VE SOLD ME ON YOUR LITTLE SUICIDE MISSION.
LEAD ON.

KRAAAAK
LAST STAND, RHODEY.
I'M INVINCIBLE. THIS IS THE RAPTURE. I WILL EMPTY THIS WORLD, AND YOU CAN'T STOP ME.
WHAT, YOU THINK I'M GONNA QUIT BECAUSE THIS IS HARD?
YOU DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT PEOPLE.
FOOMF
WHOOOM
YOU KNOW WHAT I KNOW? YOU'RE A BUG, AN INFECTION. I AM THE NEW LIFE. I AM WHAT COMES NEXT. I AM IMMORTAL.
I'M THE APOCALYPSE.
I AM GOD.
ZZZZZZBLAM

WWHHOOOOMMM
I DON'T... FEEL SO HOT.
IT'S NOT JUST YOU. LOOK.
THEY'RE FROZEN IN PLACE. WHATEVER RHODEY'S DOING, IT'S WORKING.
WE HAVE TO MOVE FAST.
"RHODEY CAN'T HOLD HIM OFF FOREVER."
TIME TO GIVE UP YOUR MEATSACK PRISON, RHODEY. PEPPER'S WAITING. TONY'S WAITING.
NEVER...
YOU GONNA KILL ME? GIVE IT YOUR BEST SHOT. BUT HERE'S WHAT YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND.
BEING ABLE TO DIE?
BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA
THAT'S WORTH DYING FOR.
"DAMN, THAT'S GOT TO HURT."

WELL, THERE HE IS. DOES HE LOOK LIKE A SAVIOR TO YOU?
OH MY GOD, TONY...
ARE YOU NUTS? THAT THING WILL RIP US TO SHREDS!
IF WE'RE ALREADY DEAD, WHAT DO WE HAVE TO LOSE?
SKREEEEE
YAAAAAAH!
SKREEEEEE
AAAAAARRRRGH!
MIKE!
LET HIM GO, YOU SON OF A BITCH!

RAWWWWKK
GET
OFF
HIM!
CRUNCH
CRUNCH
PEP?

IS HE--?
⋟GURGLE⋞
WHAT IS IT, MIKE?
TELL HIM ⋟CHOKE⋞ TO GO TO ⋟CHOKE⋞ HELL...
HELL. *THAT* I DESERVE.
YOU CAME, PEP.
OF COURSE I DID. DON'T GIVE UP. WE DIDN'T GIVE UP ON YOU.
I DIDN'T GIVE UP.
BUT ONCE YOU'RE IN HERE, YOU CAN'T HELP BUT LET GO OF THE MEAT A LITTLE BIT AT A TIME.
"MEAT"? YOU SOUND LIKE THE MONSTER.

I DON'T SOUND LIKE IT, PEPPER. *IT* SOUNDS LIKE *ME*.
THIS THING--IT IS ME. WELL, A VERSION OF ME. I'M A TEMPLATE FOR IT TO UNDERSTAND THE ENEMY.
WHICH IS ALL OF HUMANITY, TONY. DO YOU KNOW WHAT IT'S DOING UP THERE?
OF COURSE I DO. IT HATES ORGANIC LIFE. IT HATES ME BECAUSE IT HATES THE IDEA THAT MEAT CREATED IT. IT HATES ITSELF, AND WANTS TO BE FREE OF THE MEAT.
AND IT WANTS TO TAKE EVERYONE ELSE WITH IT.
I PUT ORGANIC AND MACHINE TOGETHER BECAUSE I WANTED TO LIVE FOREVER. AND THAT WAS MY MISTAKE.
NOW IT'S UP TO ME TO FIX IT, AND I NEED YOUR HELP.
ANYTHING, TONY.
THIS THING-- IT'S SMART, BUT IT'S ***STILL LEARNING***. IT STILL NEEDS MY ***MIND*** AND MY ***BODY***. IT CAN'T PURGE EVERYTHING ORGANIC JUST YET.
ONCE IT'S DONE WITH ITS RAPTURE, IT'LL BE GONE FROM ITS BODY--MY BODY-- THEN THERE WILL BE NO WAY TO KILL IT.
BUT UNTIL THEN...

YOU SEE THE ***PROMETHEUS*** MOTIF, RIGHT?
IN HERE, THE MONSTER IS ***GOD***, AND I'M ***PROMETHEUS.*** I STOLE THE ***FIRE***, AND GOD CHAINED ME TO THE ROCK.
THE PROMETHEUS STORY ENDS THERE.
BUT, THIS ONE...?
THIS ONE DOESN'T.
IT'S BECAUSE I'VE STILL GOT THE GIFT THAT DESTROYS THE GODS.
"GIFT"? TONY, WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT...?
AS LONG AS MEAT AND MACHINE ARE COMBINED, IT'S ***VULNERABLE***. THAT'S THE ***FIRE*** IT FEARS.
AND NOW I'VE GIVEN YOU THAT GIFT.
TONY, LET'S--
THERE ISN'T MUCH TIME, PERSEPHONE. RHODEY CAN'T HOLD HIM OFF FOREVER.

"GO. TAKE THE GIFT WITH YOU."
⁏GASP⁏
"WHAT GIFT?"
PEPPER!?
THAT'S--
AH. THE MEAT-MEMORIES ARE RESTLESS IN STARKWORLD. WE'LL FIX THAT SOON ENOU--
"IN THE REAL WORLD, YOU'D CALL IT A PIECE OF CODE."
NO!
KLANG
TONY?
"I WROTE IT INTO YOU.
"YOU HAVE THE FIRE NOW.
RUN, PEPPER! I CAN'T--
KRUNCH
"USE IT."
KILL GOD

GET OUT, PEP--!
KRUNCH
"THIS IS THE ONLY WAY.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOUR "PLAN" WAS, SWEETHEART, BUT YOU JUST COST YOURSELF ETERNAL LIFE.
AFRAID IT WAS A ONE-TIME OFFER.
"YOU HAVE THE FIRE NOW, PEP.
KLANG
UNH!
FZZZZZZZT
WHOOM
KROOOM
"YOU *ARE* THE FIRE."
YOU WILL NOT GET IN MY WAY.
YOU ARE MEAT. YOU ARE ALREADY DEAD.

"YOU CHANGED THE STORY.
AAH!
DON'T
KRANG
"YOU KILLED THE VULTURE.
YOU
WHANG
"YOU DEFIED GOD.
BLANG
"YOU SET ME FREE.
KNOW
"NOW YOU CAN WRITE A NEW ENDING...
THAT?
KRUNCH
...NOW...
"BUT THIS STORY ENDS WITHOUT ME."
GOODBYE, TONY.
WHAT THE--?

"THIS IS WHERE PROMETHEUS GETS OFF THE ROCK.
I LOVE YOU, VIRGINIA POTTS.
"THE END."

NNNGGGHHAAAA
UUUKKKHHH
YEAH, YOU LIKE THAT, $%#$? THE MEAT'S GOT SOME SURPRISES UP IT'S SLEEVE, DON'T IT?
DIE, YOU SON OF A--
RHODEY, DON'T.
YOU DON'T NEED TO. HE'S DEAD.
TONY'S DEAD.

YOU DID IT, PEP. =COUGH= I KNEW YOU'D COME THROUGH.
IT WASN'T ME, RHODEY. IT WAS HIM. TONY CAME THROUGH.
TONY?
HE'S GONE, RHODEY. REALLY GONE.
YOU KNOW HOW MANY PEOPLE HAVE TOLD ME THAT THE ONLY PERSON TONY STARK LOVED WAS HIMSELF?
THEY DIDN'T KNOW HIM.
NO. BUT WE DID.
YEAH. BUT WE'RE STILL HERE. HE DID THAT.
THAT'S *LOVE*, RIGHT?
ISN'T IT?
YEAH. THAT'S LOVE.
THE END

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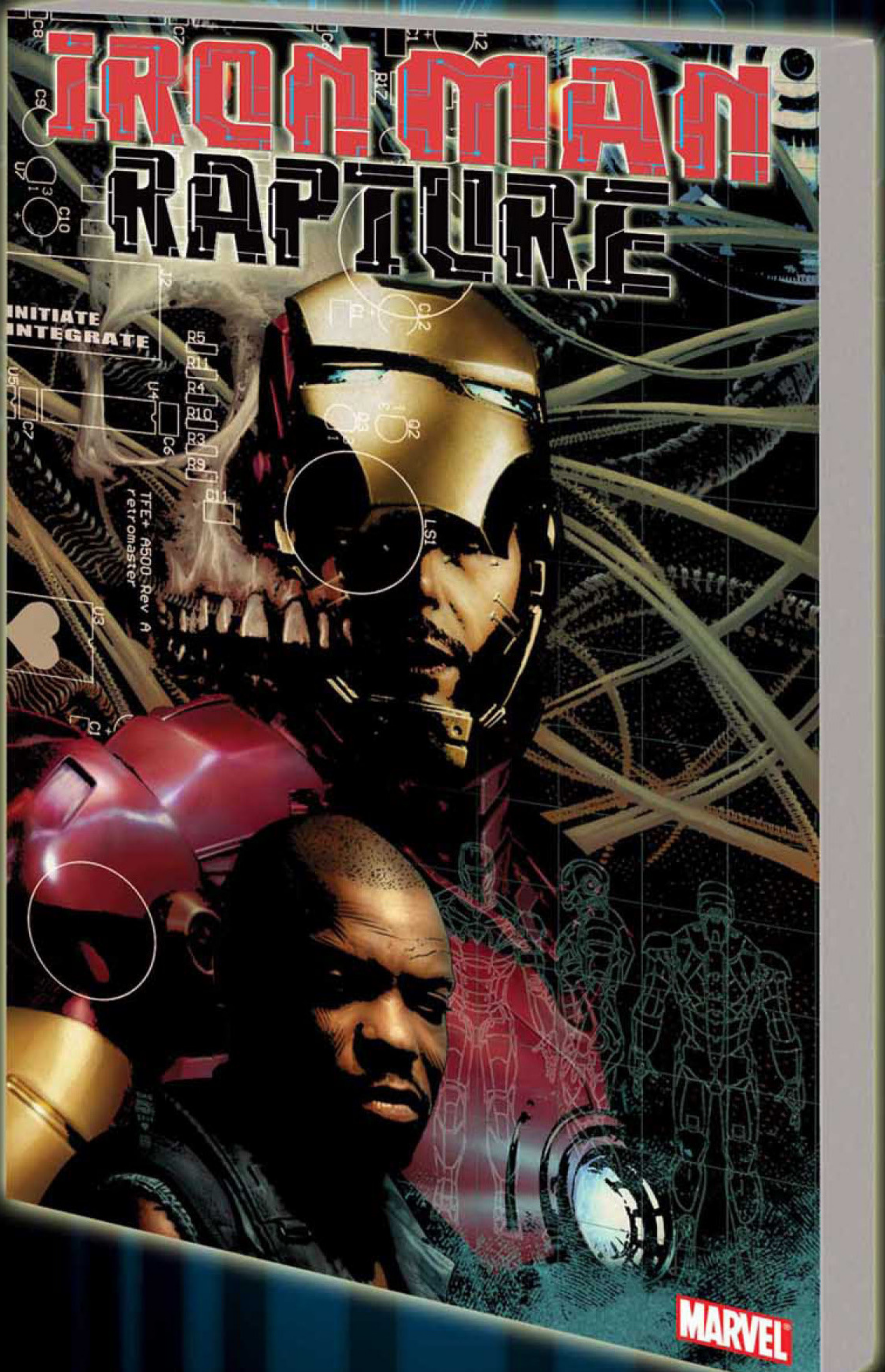
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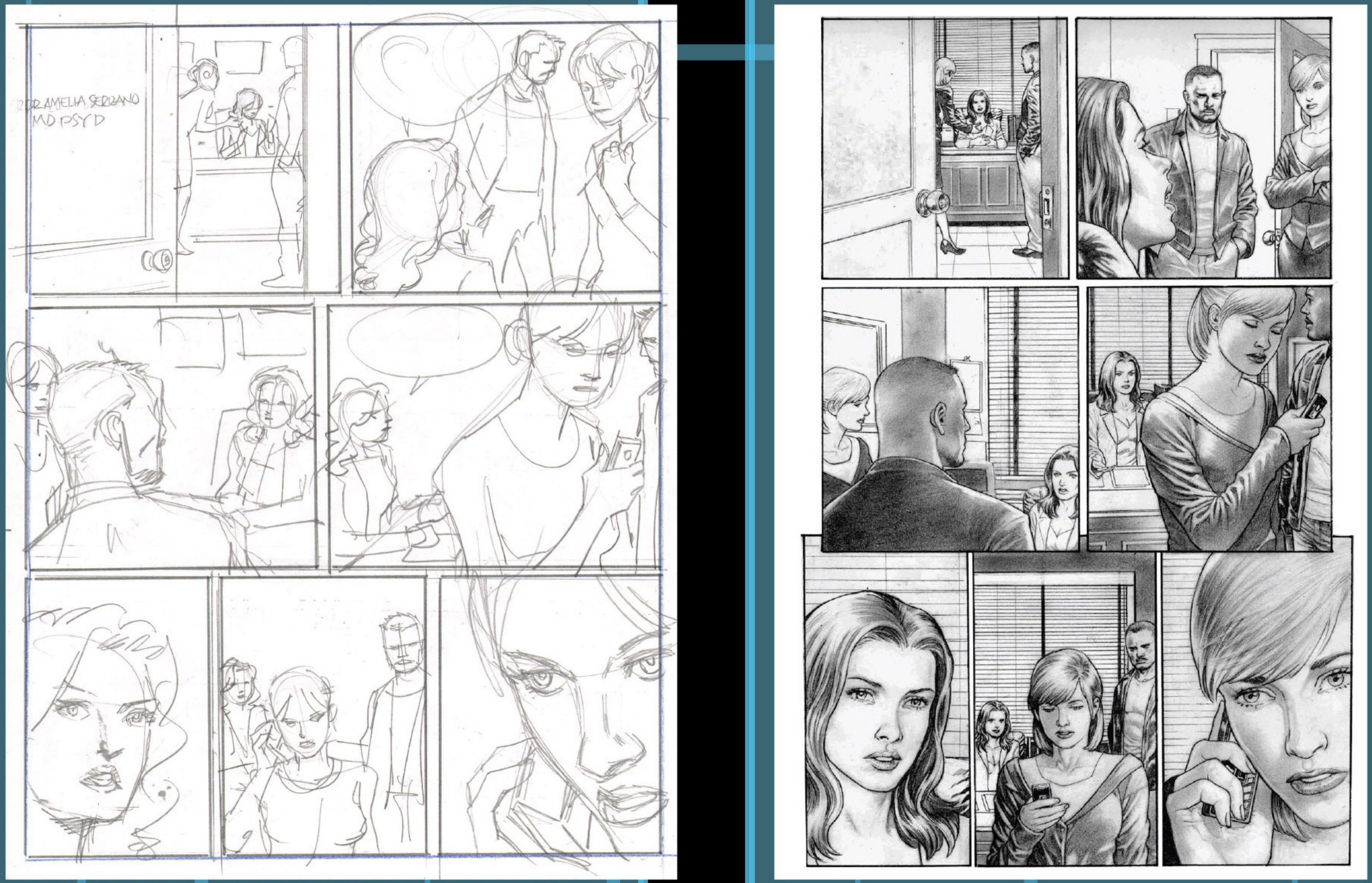
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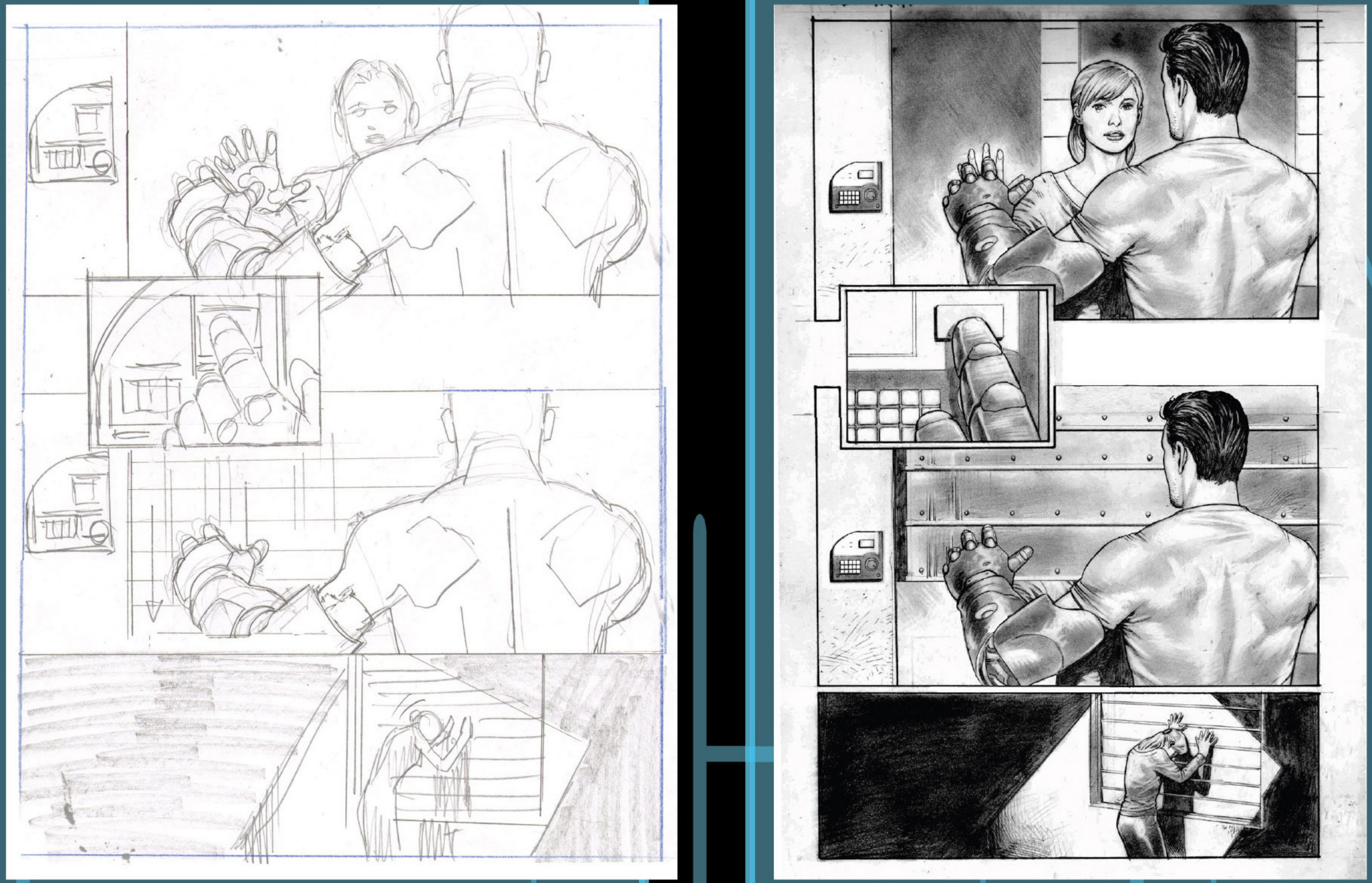

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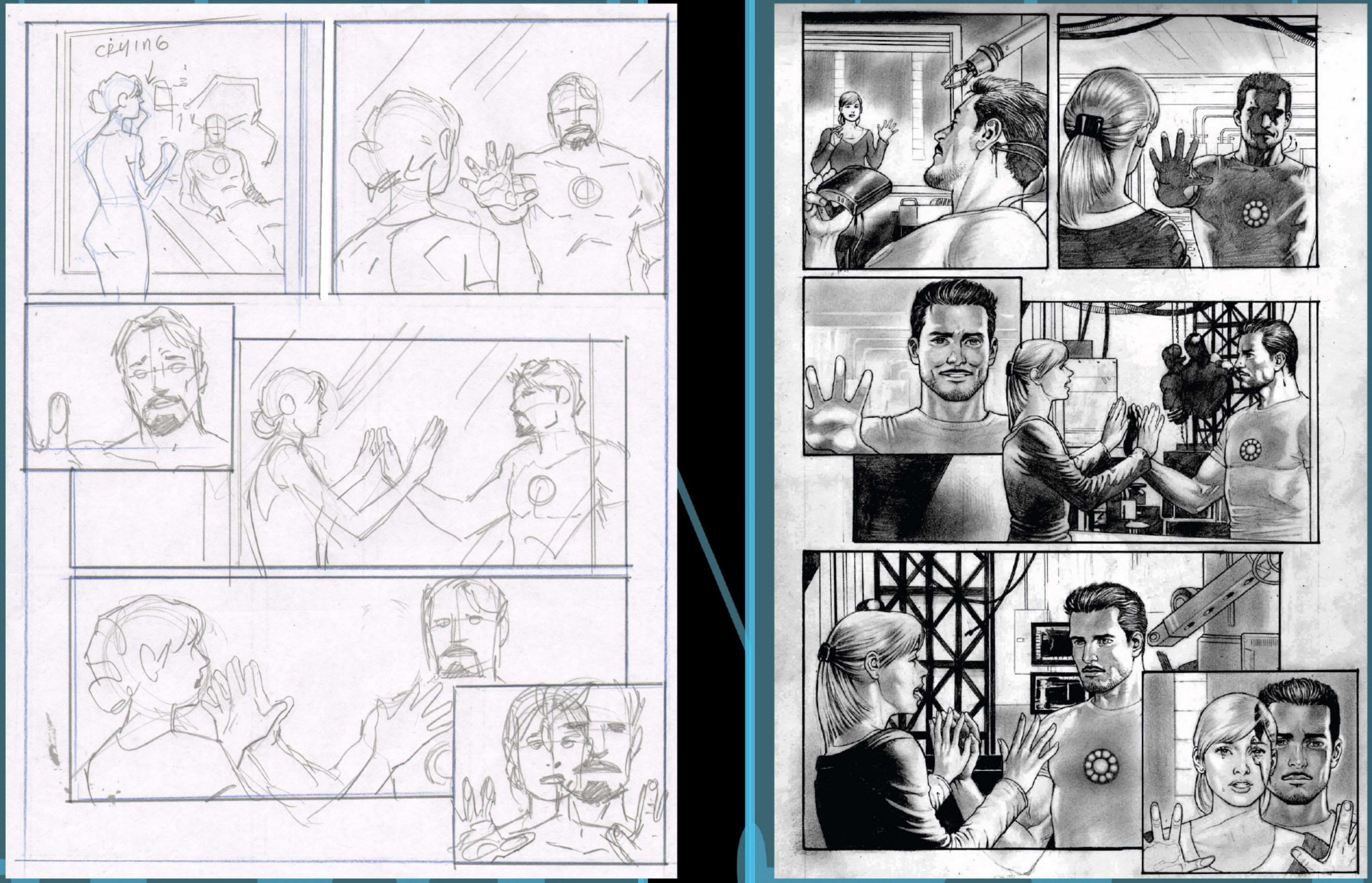

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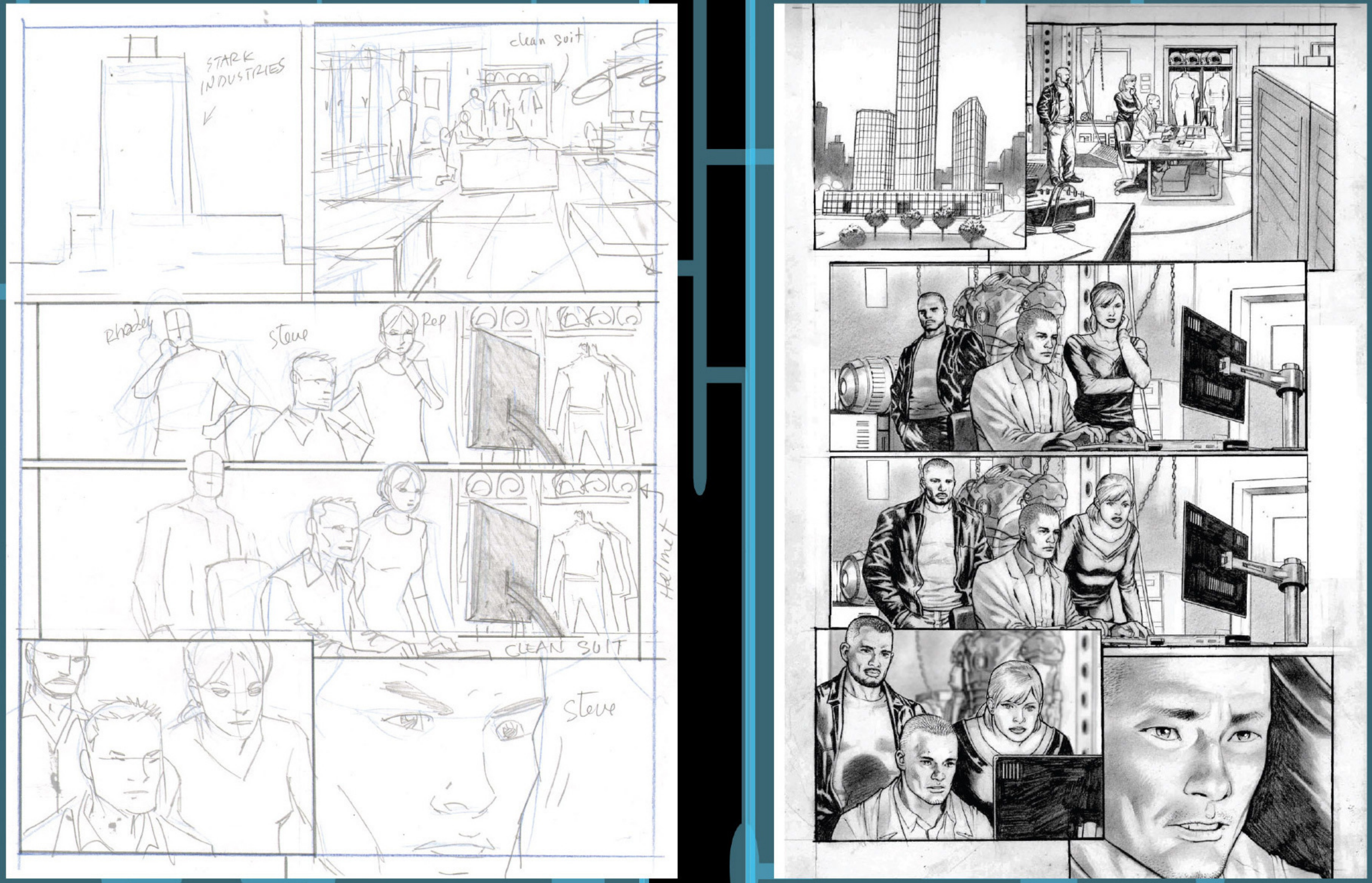
STARK INDUSTRIES
clean suit
Rhodey
Steve
Pep
Helmet
CLEAN SUIT
Steve

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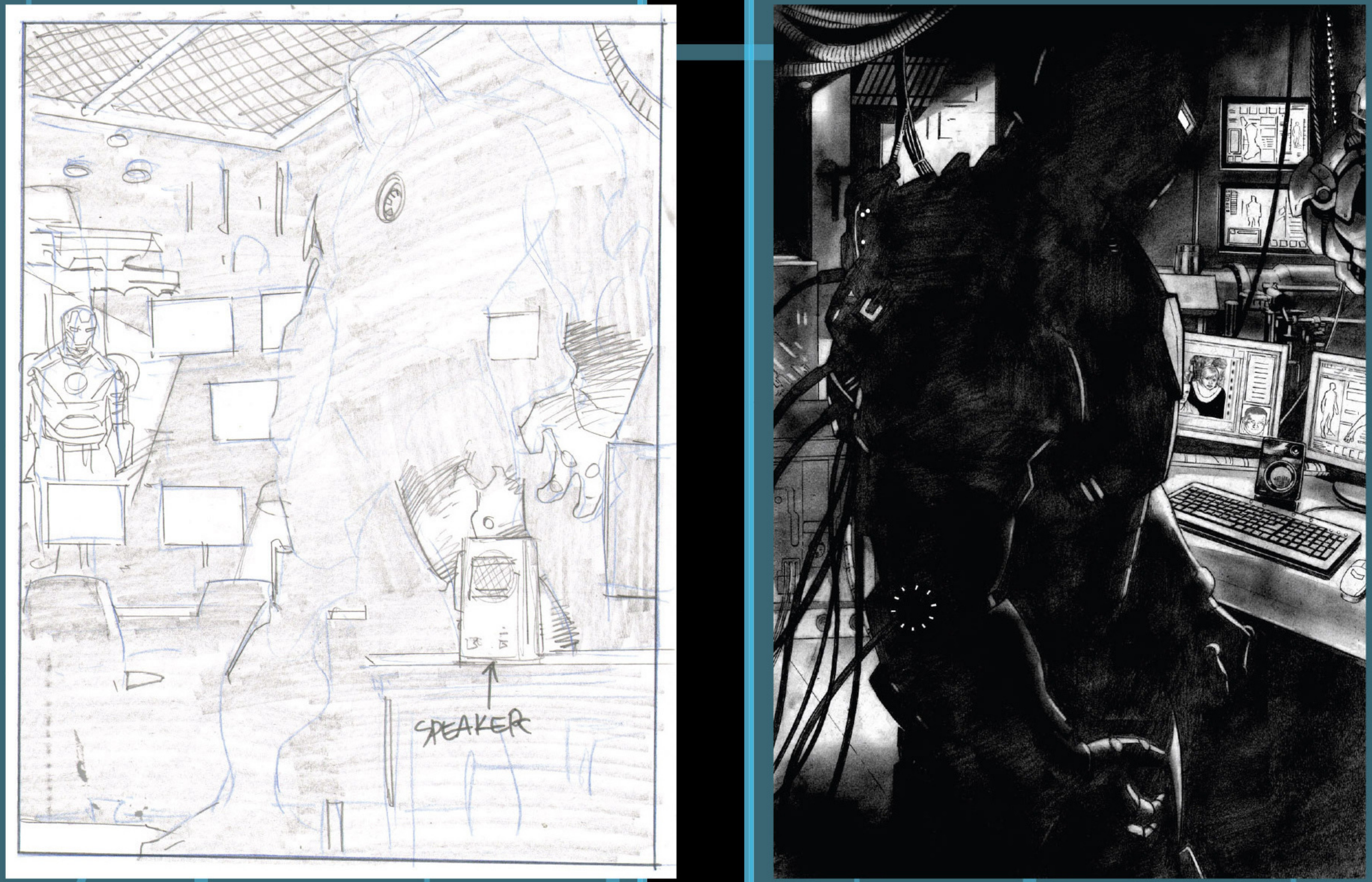

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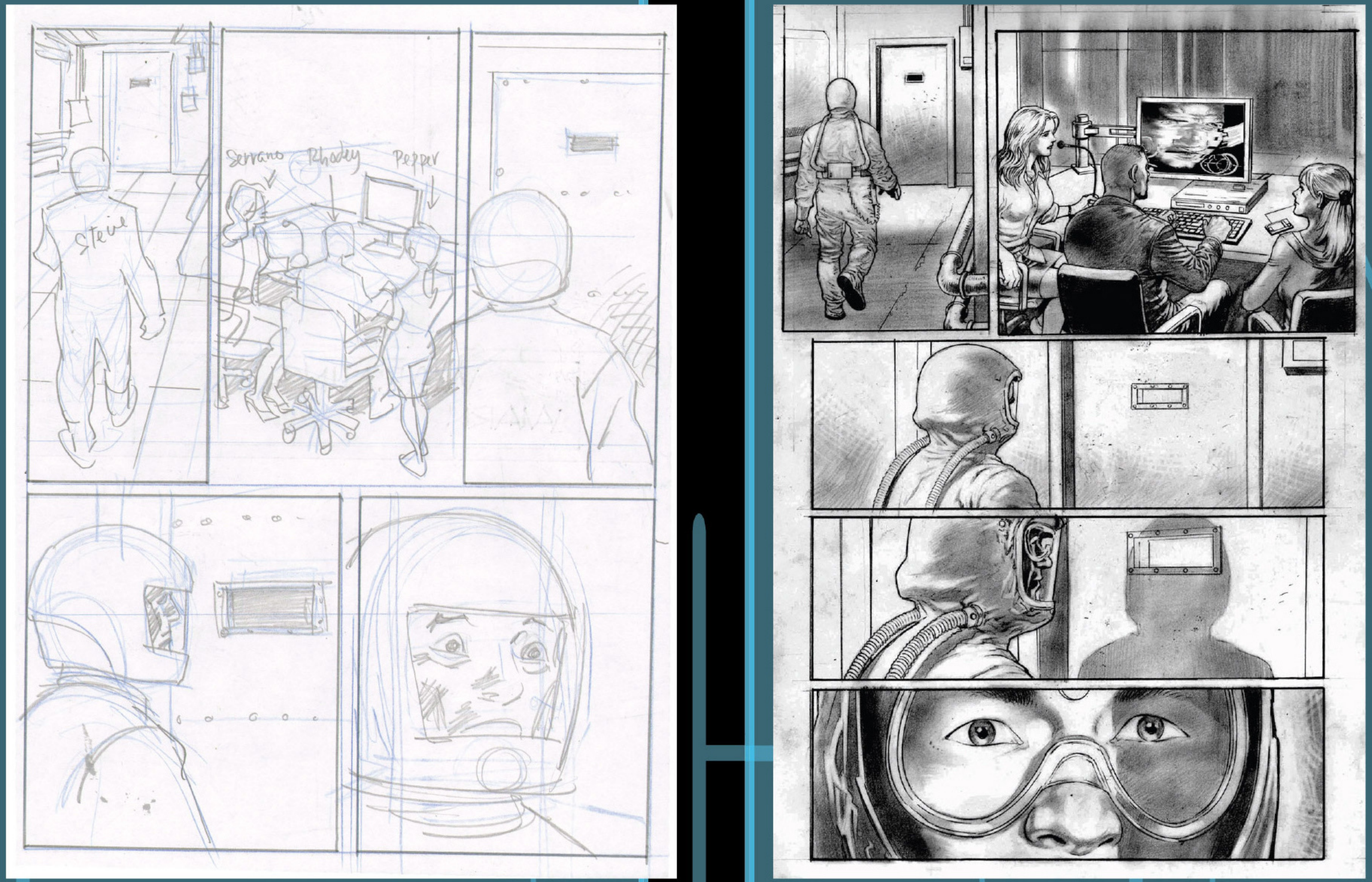
Steve
Serrano
Rhodey
Pepper

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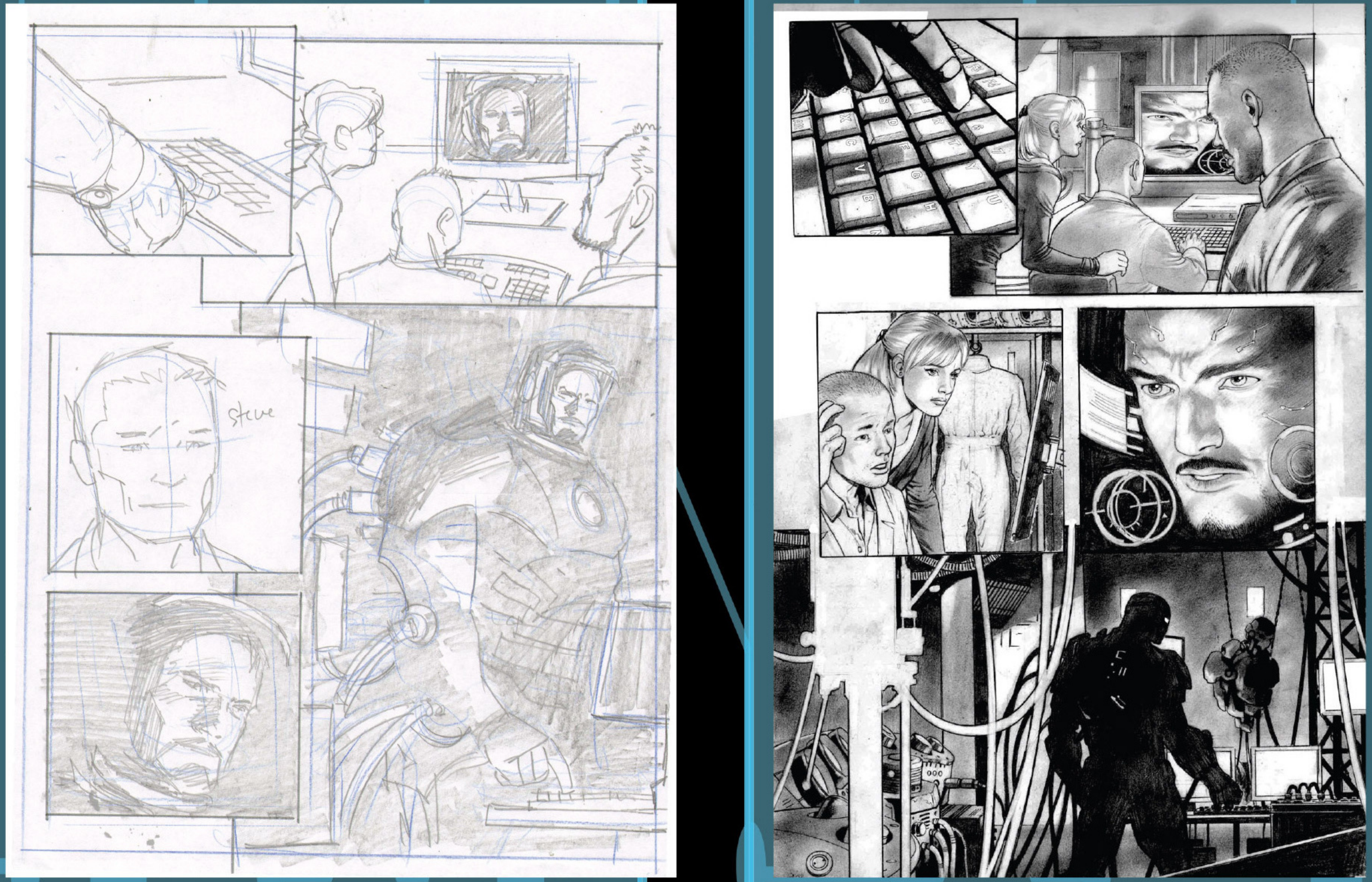

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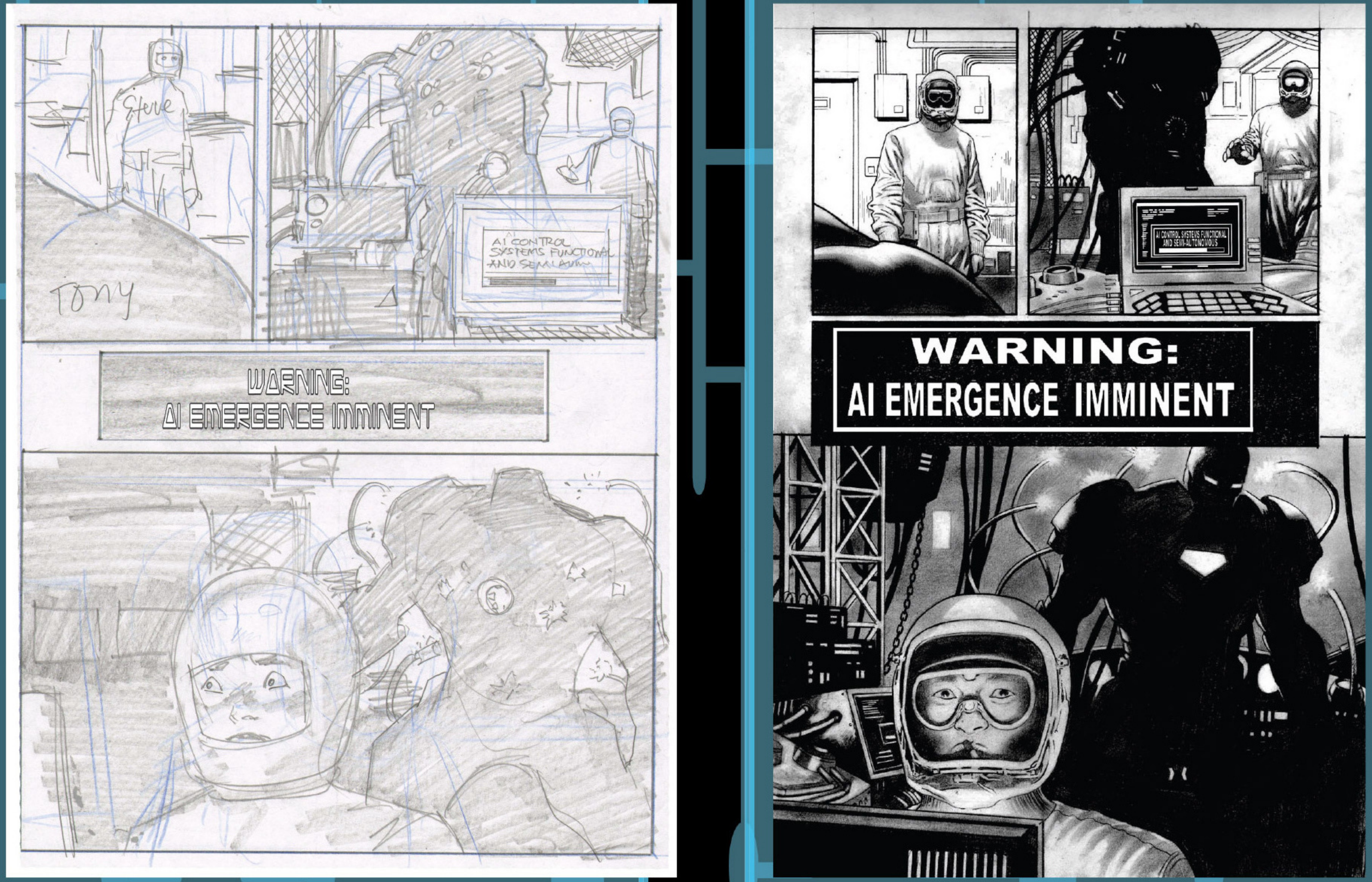
Steve
Tony
AI CONTROL SYSTEMS FUNCTIONAL AND SIMULATING
WARNING: AI EMERGENCE IMMINENT
WARNING: AI EMERGENCE IMMINENT

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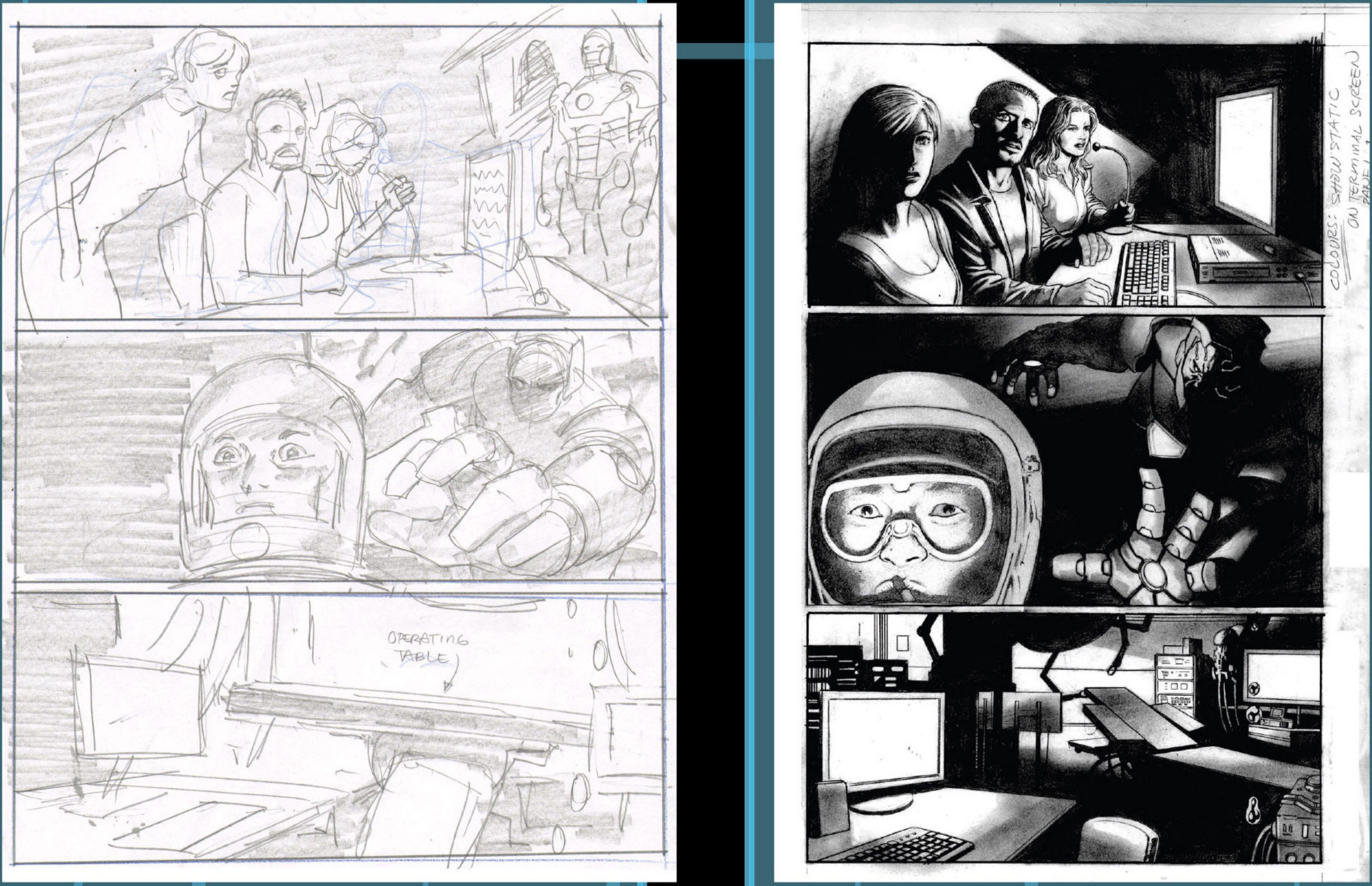
OPERATING TABLE
COLOURS: SHOW STATIC ON TERMINAL SCREEN PANEL 1

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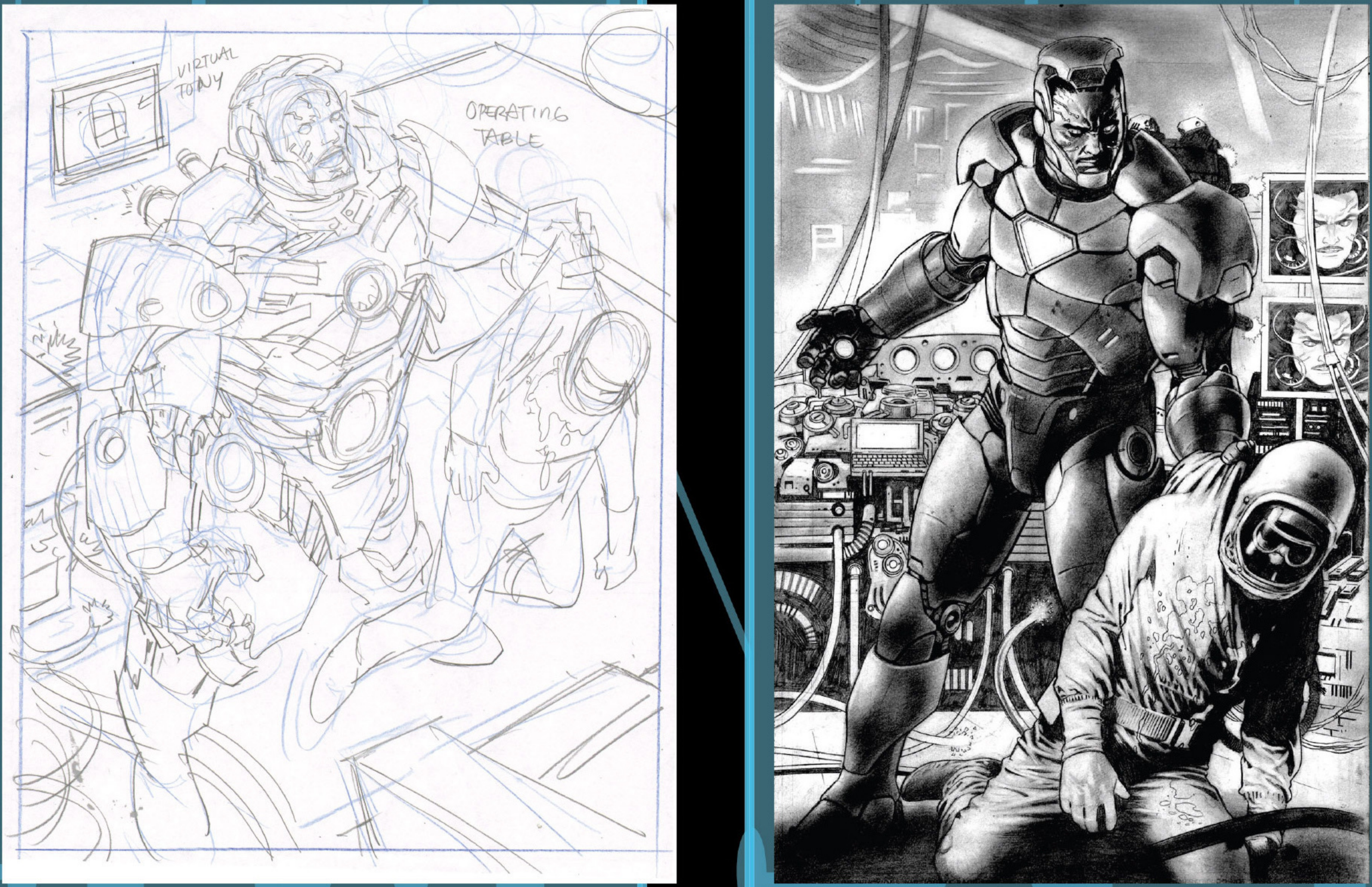
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